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Hafa Adai!

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MHS team rules design contest

The MHS Arc Architects is composed of Ian Cataluna, Jewel Cubangbang, Michaela Gatdula, Marie Manebo, and Hajin Oh. They are coached by Jeaniffer Cubangbang, MHS cooperative education teacher and also the MHS STEM Club adviser. The team was chaperoned by Karen Alla, MHS vice principal and Asap Ogomuro, PSS Science program coordinator.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of aspiring architects from Marianas High School ruled this year's Green Dream competition at the University of Guam with an entry featuring an ecologically designed hospital on Saipan.

This is the third time that MHS Arc Architects has dominated the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability Conference and Green Dream Competition—the same number of years the CNMI has been represented at the contest,

The Marianas High School Arc

See MHS on Page 4

Murkowski codel arrives today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A congressional delegation led by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is scheduled to arrive today on Saipan in response to an invitation by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to visit the CNMI and look at how the CNMI is transitioning to a U.S. workforce.

Murkowski

Murkowski, who also chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, led the bipartisan group that worked on the parameters of a bill that would extend the sunset provision of the CNMI's foreign worker program from 2019 to 2029.

The congressional delegation,

See MURKOWSKI on Page 4

Tagaman competitor hurt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Bicycle hits car that collided with police motorcycle

A Tagaman competitor from Japan was injured when his bicycle hit a car that had collided with a police motorcycle at the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Hagoi near Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday morning.

Yu Shinozaki sustained minor injuries and was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The driver of the car was cited for failing to yield to an emergency vehicle, according to Department of

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INSIDE

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Facebook's CEO apologized for the Cambridge Analytica scandal.
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Catalonia's former president is detained in Germany.
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LIFE & STYLE
It took six weeks but "Black Panther" has finally been unseated as the top film.
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Local

Senator belies report that Legislature underfunds CHCC

BRUSH FIRE
Another brush fire sweeps through vegetation in Evergreen below Mt. Tapochau yesterday afternoon. As of last night, the fire was still raging. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services teams have been monitoring the fire. Three brush fires in different spots occurred on Saipan over the weekend, while another brush fire broke out on Rota last Sunday. DFEMS

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Rota senator disproved a common misconception that the Legislature has not been funding the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., noting that the corporation has received over $19.7 million since fiscal year 2016.

Citing a Legislative Bureau report, Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) noted during last Friday's Senate session that CHCC has received a grand total $9.75 million in Casino Gross Revenue Tax allocations since fiscal year 2017 as well as over $10.5 million in additional allocations from various sources.

"…Recent reports that the Legislature has been underfunding CHCC stands to be corrected," Santos said.

According to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, CHCC received a grand total of 8 percent in allocations from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax since fiscal year 2017. In total, the CGRT amounted to over $116.25 million that was available for appropriation from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2017. Eight percent amounts to about $9.75 million.

» Notes over $19.7 million in appropriations since fiscal year 2016

The report also states that CHCC has been receiving funding allocations from the general fund, compact impact reimbursement, the tobacco settlement fund, the exclusive gaming annual licensing fees, and e-gaming activity funding.

Funding received from these sources went to various activities administered by CHCC, such as the inter-island medical referral program, funding for the Community Guidance Center, and the Division of Public Health Services.

The report noted that CHCC received funding amounting to $7.67 million and $2.82 million in fiscal years 2018 and 2017. For fiscal year 2016, CHCC was appropriated $2.92 million from the general fund for subsidies as well as the CGC.

The report, according to Santos, disproves the misconception that the CNMI Legislature has not been allocating funds toward CHCC.

"…Let the record reflect that the Legislature has done its due diligence in allocating a certain amount of funding to CHCC. How CHCC disposes of those funding remains to be seen," Santos said.

Santos also commended CHCC for promptly submitting its budget proposal for fiscal year 2019. According to her CHCC is requesting an estimated $17 million for its personnel, operations, supplies, equipment, and etc.

David Muna Sablan ordered detained pending trial

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday the U.S. government's motion to keep detaining David Muna Sablan until his trial on charges related to two bags he left behind in Garapan that allegedly contained chemicals and items used in manufacturing crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

Janet H. King, the court-appointed counsel for Sablan, told the court that they will not oppose the U.S. government's motion for order of detention pending trial.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared as counsel for the U.S. government.

Preliminary examination hearing will be on March 28 at 9am.

After the hearing, Sablan was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The U.S. Marshal Service served the federal court's warrant of arrest on Sablan last March 15, after the Drug Enforcement Administration filed a criminal complaint charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Sablan allegedly threw a backpack and a bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan last March 15. Four police officers complained of nausea and dizziness, and vomited after inhaling the chemicals. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

World Water Day focuses on nature-based solutions to the Pacific's water challenges

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific marked World Water Day last March 22, a day designated to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of freshwater resources.

This year's theme, "Nature for Water," is an opportunity for the Pacific to explore nature-based solutions to the water and sustainable development challenges we face in the 21st century. Nature-based solutions include measures such as planting trees to replenish forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, restoring wetlands and utilizing natural technologies such as composting toilets. Such approaches can be a sustainable and cost-effective way to help rebalance the water cycle, mitigate the effects of climate change and improve human health and livelihoods.

Nature-based solutions are already being utilized by Pacific nations such as Vanuatu, which has chosen World Water Day to launch a new management plan for its Tagabe River catchment. The catchment is Port Vila's only source of potable water, supporting the growing needs of residents, agriculture and industry. The plan aims to protect this natural system through measures such as catchment rehabilitation and the establishment of protection zones to safeguard water quality from pollutants.

More information on World Water Day can be found at worldwaterday.org. ***(PR)***

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Tudela steps aside in support of Camacho

Former acting mayor Marian Tudela will not run for Saipan mayor this November so she can support the candidacy of Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho.

Camacho announced his bid to run for mayor last week against current Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

Tudela was in the process of officially running for mayor in this year's election. According to her, she had already gotten in touch with former supporters and was already finalizing details to her campaign when she made the decision to step aside for Camacho's candidacy.

Tudela was the acting mayor after the passing of late mayor Donald Flores back in 2014. She ran against Apatang and nine others in the 2014 election year; she gained the support of about 3,000 to 4,000 voters. Tudela later withdrew to support Apatang.

According to Tudela, she and Apatang had an agreement in the last election year, but it was compromised this election year so she decided to re-run against Apatang. However, she again decided to withdraw to support another candidate.

Tudela said she fully supports Camacho because he is passionate and determined to serve the community.

"I have confidence and trust that he can help the people of Saipan," she said.

Tudela is urging her supporters to support her decision to campaign for Camacho in this election year.

As of now, there are officially only two individuals running for Saipan mayor. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Reduced water service hours on Saipan

There will be reduced water service hours in the As Terlaje, Chalan Laulau, Middle Road and Beach Road up to the Gualo Rai Intersection areas from 6am to 12pm daily until April 5, 2018.

Reduced water hours began yesterday morning. Regular water service hours will resume on April 6, 2018, as scheduled below for the following areas:

- As Terlaje, Chalan Laulau (Beach Road) from the Atkins Kroll intersection to Gualo Rai Road: 24 hours
- Chalan Laulau (Middle Road) from Transamerica to Gualo Rai Road: 6am to 12pm

The purpose of the reduced water hours is to allow CUC's contractor to disinfect and fill the new NMC water tank. This project is part of the Northern Marianas College 1.0-million-gallon Tank Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Completion of the project will provide a more reliable water system. ***(CUC)***

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IN SEN. MANGLONA'S SUIT VS SIBLINGS

Handwriting expert's report denied as evidence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Pro Tempore Judge David A. Wiseman denied yesterday to admit into evidence the report of handwriting expert Reed C. Hayes, who had testified as the expert witness of Sen. Paul A. Manglona's (Ind-Rota) siblings.

Wiseman said he will base any determination on the signatures based on the testimony of Hayes, not the Hayes report, "which is merely a demonstrative aid."

Wiseman said the Hayes report is similar to the slide presentation that the court received during Hayes' testimony—it is a demonstrative exhibit that helps organize the various data points under consideration.

At a bench trial last February, Hayes testified that the signature in the deed of gift of land to Paul Manglona does not match his mother's other signatures.

Paul Manglona is suing his siblings over a 4,181-square meter property on Capital Hill. The senator asked the court to declare him the owner of the property by virtue of the 1985 deed of gift.

Priscilla Manglona Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, co-administrators of the estate of their late mother, Bernadita A. Manglona, asserted that their brother, Paul Manglona, does not inherit the disputed land as their mother's signature in the document had been forged.

» Judge also denies as evidence senator's late father's declaration, affidavit

In his rulings yesterday, Wiseman said it is undisputed that the discussion of the handwriting exemplars and resulting conclusions contained within the Hayes report are hearsay, and therefore would generally be barred.

Yet, Wiseman said, Torres, Thomas Manglona and co-defendants argue that that the Hayes report can still be admitted.

The judge said while the Hayes report cannot be admitted into evidence, it can still be used by the court as a demonstrative exhibit.

Wiseman said at the February trial, the parties stipulated to the exemplars in the Hayes report and therefore the report serves as a useful guide for organizing the various signatures for comparison purposes.

However, he said, the analysis and conclusions of the report are not admissible and will not be considered by the court.

In the same order yesterday, Wiseman denied Paul Manglona's siblings' motion to admit into evidence the declaration of their late father, Prudencio T. Manglona, dated April 10, 2014.

Wiseman ruled it is evident that the Prudencio T. Manglona's declaration is hearsay that falls outside any recognized hearsay exception.

Wiseman said Paul Manglona did not wrongfully cause Prudencio T. Manglona's unavailability to testify.

Wiseman said Prudencio T. Manglona passed away before he could testify regarding the dispute over the Capital Hill property, but nonetheless his prior declaration is inadmissible hearsay, which does not fall within the scope of the NMI Rules of Evidence.

The declaration states that it was Prudencio T. Manglona and Bernadita A. Manglona's intention to leave the Capital Hill property to all their children in equal share.

On the other hand, Wiseman denied Paul A. Manglona's motion to admit into evidence the Prudencio T. Manglona's affidavit dated Dec. 10, 2013.

Wiseman said the affidavit is almost identical to Prudencio T. Manglona's declaration in that it purports to detail Prudencio's understanding as to who owns the Capital Hill property.

The judge said the affidavit differs from the declaration in that the affidavit claims that Paul A. Manglona has owned the property since 1985 when his mother, Bernadita, executed a deed of gift in his favor.

Wiseman said the affidavit takes the exact opposite position of the later time Prudencio T. Manglona's declaration.

However, Wiseman said, like the declaration, the affidavit is hearsay that does not fall within one of the recognized exceptions.

In objecting to admit the affidavit into evidence, Torres and Thomas A. Manglona claim that the affidavit lacks reliability because Paul Manglona admitted during his testimony that the affidavit was signed by their father while he was hospitalized and in medical distress.

The trial was suspended after Wiseman heard attorney Samuel Mok's motion for judgment for partial findings.

Mok, who is counsel for siblings Priscilla A. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, made the motion shortly after attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Paul Manglona, informed the court that they rest their case after the senator completed his testimony.

Wiseman asked the parties to submit their briefs about the issue no later than May 4, 2018.

The MHS Arc Architects poses with their model at the University of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MHS

From Page 1

Architects successfully placed first and also earned the opportunity to present their model at the Sustainability Conference at the Hyatt Regency Guam this Wednesday.

The concept of the Green Dream competition is to create a model of a sustainable solution for a business or organization.

During last year's competition, the MHS students created a model of a sustainable school, and the year before that, they created a model of a sustainable home.

This year, the team chose the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as their building model. As the lone hospital in the CNMI and its inability to make full utility payments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the team decided CHCC would be the best organization to create a sustainable solution plan for.

The MHS Arc Architects consist of the same team members as the previous year. They are Ian Cataluna, Jewel Cubangbang, Michaela Gatdula, Marie Manebo, and Hajin Oh.

Cubangbang is a veteran in the competition and has been competing since her freshman year. Cubangbang will soon enter a college engineering program after she graduates in May.

The Arc Architects were coached by Jeaniffer Cubangbang, MHS cooperative education teacher and also MHS STEM Club adviser.

The team was chaperoned by MHS vice principal Karen Alla and PSS Science Program coordinator Asap Ogomuro.

MURKOWSKI

From Page 1

or codel, consists of eight members. It is composed of Murkowski; her husband Verne Martell; Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield; Delegate Gregorio Kilili C, Sablan (Ind-MP); Delegate Aumua Amata C. Radewagen (R-AS); U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources senior republican counsel Isaac Edwards; committee staff Emy Lesofski; and U.S. Department of Defense's commander Jeremy Lyon.

After arriving on Tinian from Guam, the codel would call on Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and do a windshield tour of the island.

After the tour of Tinian, the codel will proceed to Saipan, where they would be in a closed lunch meeting hosted by Torres and attended by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with CNMI leadership as well as members of the CNMI business community. Following the lunch meeting, the codel would then go through another windshield tour of the island.

At 5:30pm today, the delegation would hold a traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor. The event is open to the public and would be followed by a closed dinner reception to conclude the codel visit.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, only windshield tours would be conducted in order to accommodate the tight one-day-schedule of the codel and was determined appropriate by both the Governor's Office as well as the Delegate's Office.

Torres invited Murkowski to visit the CNMI last Feb. 28, 2018, to give her a chance to observe the challenges as well as take note of progress sustained since the CNMI-only Transitional Worker Program was created in 2010.

Torres confirmed in a social media post last March 16, 2018, that Murkowski had agreed to visit the CNMI. Information on the visit was withheld until the last-minute due to security concerns.

TAGAMAN

From Page 1

Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

The police officer and the vehicle's passengers were not harmed in the crash that happened at 7:57am.

A DPS motorcycle was the lead escort for the 2018 Tagaman Triathlon. The officer activated his emergency lights as he cleared a path for the first two biking competitors.

While approaching the intersection of Beach Road Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Hagoi, the officer sounded his siren and slowed down.

After seeing a vehicle approaching from the southbound left turn lane, he continued slowing down, flashing his emergency lights, and sounding his siren.

Once in the intersection, the vehicle began moving in an attempt to make a left turn. The officer stepped on his brakes, but the car proceeded forward, causing the motorcycle and the car to collide at the intersection.

Immediately following the collision between the car and police motorcycle, bicyclist Shinozaki hit the right side of the southbound car and fell to the ground.

The officer called for medics to examine Shinozaki and the car's occupants.

When questioned, the car's driver stated that he allegedly did see the police officer in the intersection with his flashing lights, as well as the cyclist in the outer northbound lane.

However, the driver stated that since he did not receive any direction from the officer, he proceeded into the intersection when the traffic light turned green.

Saipan Tribune learned that Shinozaki at the time was leading the race and was heading toward Banzai Cliff when the accident happened.

Hunter says Kilili 'is plain wrong and he knows it'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The head of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs claims that the allegations made against the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) are not factual and stems from political motives.

Last Thursday, Sablan put out a press release claiming that the local NAP office is sitting on $22 million worth of funding that remains unspent.

According to DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter, Sablan is plain wrong and he is aware of it.

"He knows that there is a plan in place for the Enhanced Nutrition Assistance Program and the expenditure of the funds under that program, that it is a living plan, and that it is the product of very close and continuous work with our federal grantors, the Food and Nutrition Service, and that it is followed meticulously and adjusted as necessary. …According to the FNS, our NAP has thus far run an exemplary NAP and ENAP," he said.

Hunter clarified that the funding that has been allocated to the NAP program has been spread out through 2021 to ensure that there is less of a chance that beneficiaries will see a reduction in benefits before the Farm Bill (which ensures funding for the NAP program) makes it though Congress.

"As the congressman knows, the last [Farm] Bill was delayed. This bill is scheduled for action in 2019 and, in case it is once again delayed, our plan took that into account by running the program past that date. This was something that all parties thought was strategically smart," he said.

According to Hunter, the multi-year plan not only raises income eligibility and benefits in a much more thoughtful way than the language of the original SNAP pilot that was included in the current Farm Bill, but it sees the development of an eligibility system, the implementation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer system that is tied into the eligibility system and that will move recipients from paper coupons to cards, and the revision of current processes and regulations to parallel them as close to the SNAP program as possible by the time the Farm Bill comes around.

"If we're running a parallel program, it should make it that much easier for the [delegate] to see us into the full SNAP. So this is exactly what our NAP has been doing, and as I stated, we have been working closely with the FNS every step of the way," said Hunter.

Hunter stated that from the $22 million that has been allocated to the CNMI, $6 million has been obligated or spent, with over a million distributed monthly to 2,662 eligible households. These numbers have grown and are expected to grow as adjustments to projections are made.

"What we cannot do is put the ENAP in a position where the projected benefits exceed the available dollars. So we do not see the program put into that position, we have taken a precautionary approach to the increase in eligibility and benefits. The act stipulates that the grant funds for the ENAP will be available to the CNMI until expended. Rather than expend it all in one short six- to seven-month period…. we are carrying out a more thoughtful plan that see benefits gradually rise before a gradual tapering off, and where this gradual reduction period is dovetailed by the successful inclusion of the CNMI in the full SNAP by our U.S. congressman, so that the increased benefits see permanency," he said.

According to Hunter, the funding will not be spent through 2024 as Sablan stated.

"The NAP met with the FNS recently and there are proposed new revisions that will see an increase in income eligibility and benefits in the upcoming fiscal years. But we are doing this in a well-thought out way, and with the approval of the FNS," he said.

According to Hunter, this was not Sablan's first statement about NAP.

"These were put out without our input or consultation. While it plainly looked like the congressman was trying to score points for the work we were doing… we were more concerned with the work, and decided not to say anything publicly. This was never about publicity for us," he said.

Hunter believes the press release from Sablan's office was a ploy not only to score political points, but to develop an excuse in advance of action on the Farm Bill, as to why he was once again unsuccessful in seeing the CNMI a party to beneficial legislation.

"If that happens, that is on him and his ability as a congressman, not on our NAP. Let me be absolutely clear, if the CNMI does not see a transition into the SNAP in the upcoming Farm Bill, that is on the congressman's ability or inability to see that happen, not on the CNMI government, the DCCA, or NAP," he said.

Hunter said that what saddens him is that Sablan also denigrated the people who worked very hard and diligently in helping develop and carry out these plans, and who have done an outstanding job, and who have been recognized for it by federal partners. "That he has opted to denigrate us in an attempt to score cheap political points is at best obscene," he said.

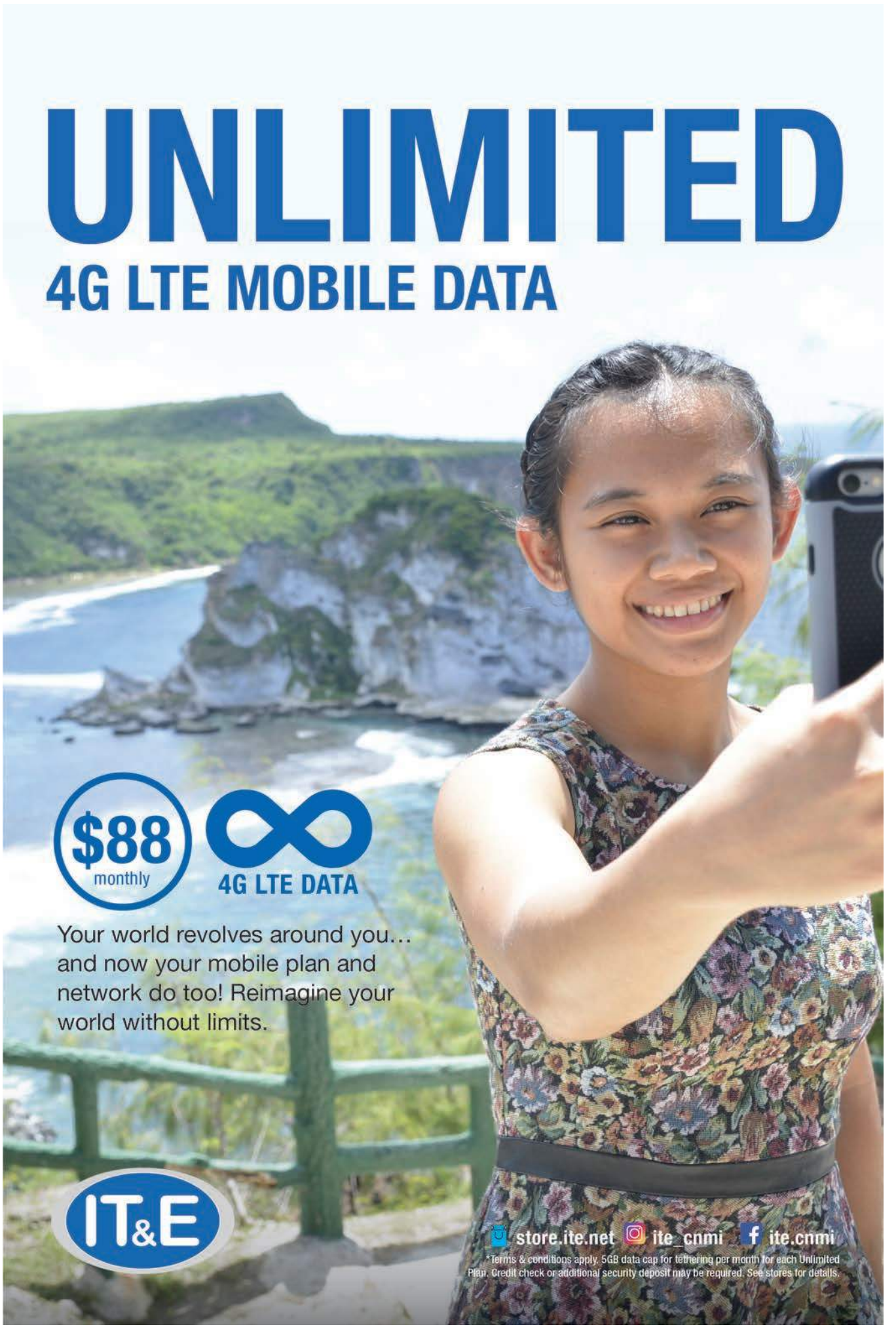
Wastewater service interruption update

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to give an update to the public for the emergency wastewater service interruption for the customers connected to the South Wastewater Collection System, which provides sewer services to the following areas: Beach Road from San Antonio to San Jose at Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road (Atkins Kroll) intersection, Middle Road from Quartermaster Road to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road (Chalan Kiya traffic light), As Terlaje Road, Chalan Tun Apa Road (by NMC), Airport Road, Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road from Shell Dandan to Koblerville and Agingan Point.

The cause of the wastewater service interruption was due to a pump and motor failure at the A-16 Lift station in San Antonio. CUC was notified about the problem at approximately 8am yesterday. Wastewater operators were able to turn on a secondary pump and motor at the A-16 lift station at approximately 10am to minimize any sewage overflows.

The A-16 lift station has been recently rehabilitated and is currently covered under the warranty period with the contractor. CUC, with the assistance of the contractor, are working together to help determine the root cause of the failure. However, they have installed a temporary bypass system to a nearby lift station to help keep up with the sewage flows and eliminate any sewage overflows to the affected areas.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***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Hazmat team checks abandoned luggage at Micro Beach

A hazmat team from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services checked a luggage that was found in an abandoned raft at Micro Beach last Sunday. No hazardous materials were found.

DFEMS said the Department of Public Safety took over the investigation in identifying the owner of the raft and the luggage.

Picnickers reportedly found the raft with the luggage at 8am and called DPS. A DFEMS hazmat team responded and secured the luggage.

DFEMS

A member of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Hazmat team checks the contents of a luggage that was found in an abandoned raft tied to a tree at Micro Beach last Sunday morning. The luggage did not contain hazardous materials but only bottled water, canned goods, and lotions according to the Department of Public Safety.

» Finds water bottle, canned goods, lotion

DPS spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard told *Saipan Tribune* that the team found a water bottle, boat, where the luggage was found, was tied to a tree.

Shepard said some canned foods and lotion inside the luggage.

As of yesterday, police were still trying to identify the owner of the raft. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LTA now registering for second cohort of 2018

The Latte Training Academy, Inc. has opened registration for its next set of certification cohorts.

The new sessions will kick off on April 2, 2018 with the organization's Hotel & Hospitality Skills, Tasks and Results Training Certification course. This course has been a cornerstone for employees in the hospitality industry and is globally recognized through the industry's prestigious American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute.

The course is scheduled from April 2 through July 23, with classes occurring on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday's from 3pm to 5pm.

"This course has been proven effective in the CNMI. Since our inception in 2013, the Latte Training Academy has offered this course in partnership with various public agencies. Our graduates have gone on to work in all areas within the hotel and hospitality industry both here in the CNMI and abroad. Many of our partner hotels throughout the island actively seek out our graduates who have gained the S.T.A.R.T. certification," said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum.

The organization will also begin registration for its office manager certification course scheduled to begin on April 24, 2018, on Tuesday and Thursday's from 6pm to 9pm. The inaugural offering of this course will provide participants with core competencies in a host of essential office management functions to include effective oral and written communication, financial management, and personnel management. The course is accredited through Accounting Training Unlimited and the National Bookkeepers Association.

"We are really excited about the upcoming sessions. We are launching some new courses, as well as continuing to offer courses in our fundamental areas. In addition to the Hotel & Hospitality and Business Administration courses, we will be offering sessions in Allied Health and Information Technology. We are in the process of finalizing our Barbering & Cosmetology courses with our partners in the mainland U.S., as well as our funding partners here in the CNMI," said Buyum.

To learn more about all the organization's courses and register for a seat, interested participants should visit the organization's website at www.lattetrainingacademy.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Landfill, transfer station closed on Good Friday

In observance of Good Friday, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill will be closed all day on Friday, March 30, 2018. Regular operations will resume on Saturday, March 31, 2018. ***(PR)***

Flags flown at half-staff

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation last March 22, directing that all CNMI and U.S. flags in the CNMI be lowered to half-staff in respect for the passing of former senator Ramon "Kumoi" Santos Deleon Guerrero.

"As a mark of respect for the life and service of the late…Deleon Guerrero, I hereby order that the flag of the Commonwealth, together with the flag of the United States, shall be flown at half-staff at the Juan Atalig Sablan Memorial Building and upon all public buildings, instrumentalities, and grounds until the day of his interment." ***(PR)***

Candidates to appear on radio show

All candidates running for public office will be given equal air time regardless of party affiliation on the Marianas Agupa radio talk show from May 2018 to Sept. 30, 2018.

To schedule your radio appearance on the talk show, contact show host Glenn H. Manglona as soon as possible at 287-4536 or via email at gmanglona@gmail.com. The deadline to secure your air time on the show is April 30, 2018. Do not wait, contact now and make arrangement.

Candidates on Rota and Tinain, your radio appearance will be through phone patch by Thomas D. Mendiola and David M. Cing, respectively.

The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa Facebook account via instant messaging.) ***(PR)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 27, from 8am to 11:59pm. The U.S. military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 until April 1 from 8am to 5pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators to monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Islandwide cleanup on April 20

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be joining the 2018 Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 20, from 3pm to 4:30pm and Saturday, April 21, from 8am to 10am. If you would like to volunteer, contact the BECQ no later than April 18, 2018, at 4pm. For more information about volunteering, contact Jose Kaipat at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

Military training in Guam, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is conducting training at Naval Base Guam and the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 29, from noon to 11pm. Residents in the area can expect to hear an increase in Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 traffic as part of this training. These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the islands of Guam and Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of each island. ***(PR)***

SENATE RESOLUTION

Commonwealth Women's Association president Rose Ada-Hocog shares a few words as the Senate presents a resolution honoring them and the CNMI Women's Affairs last Thursday. ERWIN ENCINARES

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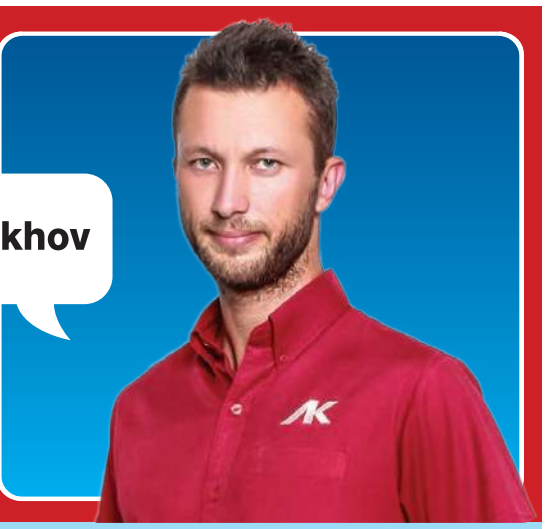

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WAS $18,699
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Mileage 35,318, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, STK#U17-092T
WAS $22,799*
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2016 Corolla LE 4-DR sedan
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Green, Mileage 28,773, STK#R18-004F
WAS $18,999
NOW $18,499*

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4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, STK#U17-102R
WAS $21,999*
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Mileage 19,734, 6-cyl, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-012T
NOW $19,999*

2017 Corolla LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, Fully loaded with Alarm, Pre-Coat, & Backup Sensor, #R18-002F
WAS $20,899
NOW $19,999*

2016 Tacoma Access Cab Pre-Runner
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-130L
WAS $23,999
NOW $22,999*

2016 Tacoma Access Cab Pre-Runner
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-129L
WAS $24,199
NOW $22,499*

2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P
WAS $29,399
NOW $25,499*

2014 Tacoma DC
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T
WAS $30,599
NOW $25,499*

2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
WAS $26,899
NOW $25,499*

2015 Tacoma Double Cab
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-132T
WAS $26,999
NOW $25,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-109R
WAS $30,299
NOW $26,499*

2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
WAS $27,699
NOW $26,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R
WAS $30,599
NOW $26,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R
WAS $30,599*
NOW $28,199*

2015 Toyota Sienna LE
Mileage 12,665, 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
WAS $34,499*
NOW $28,699*

2014 Tacoma Double Cab
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
WAS $31,399
NOW $27,999*

2016 Sienna LE Van
Mileage 46,864, 6-cyl, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-009L
NOW $29,999*

2012 4Runner Trail Edition
Mileage 30,438, V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P
WAS $34,999
NOW $29,999*

2016 Sienna, V6
Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 33,929, STK#U18-010L
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Mom-and-Me Night

A group of makeup artists from T Galleria conducted mother-and-daughter makeovers during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A nail art station was set up during the Mom-and-Me night event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Charm bracelets and necklaces were up for sale during the Mom-and-Me night event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Division of Youth Services set up an educational station during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Charm bracelets and necklaces were up for sale during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau set up an educational station during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence set up an educational station during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

An arts and crafts station was set up during the Mom-and-Me event last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Taste of the Marianas to return to AMP

The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will return to American Memorial Park this year.

The Marianas Visitors Authority signature event will be held every Saturday evening on Saipan in May in celebration of Tourism Month.

The MVA has confirmed over 20 food and beverage vendors for the event, which features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales.

"The Taste committee has been meeting for several weeks now, and we are so happy to be able to bring the event back to American Memorial Park this year," said MVA Community Projects specialist and event coordinator Ray Villagomez. "As one of the most popular festivals in the Marianas, Taste again aims to serve up a full, fun, and delicious month of Tourism Month celebration in May."

The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night). ***(MVA)***

File photo of the 18th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas will be held every Saturday during May 2018 Tourism Month beginning at 6pm at American Memorial Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Homeland Security provides mobile command unit to the Guma Hustisia

A mobile command unit has been provided to the Guma Hustisia at the direction of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Gerald Deleon Guerrero.

The mobile unit will supplement the services provided by the Superior Court Clerk's Office while the air-conditioning and mold remediation issues are assessed at the Guma Hustisia.

The Guma Hustisia has remained closed to the public since March 16, 2018. However, court operations have resumed temporarily in alternate locations at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, the Department of Public Safety's training offices, and the Office of the Adult Probation and Supervision's satellite office behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle. The Marshals Service Division has personnel on-site at the various alternate locations to assist court patrons with direction and information.

"We extend our appreciation to the executive and legislative branches, as well as the U.S. District Court, for all the assistance they have been providing to the Judiciary during the past week," said Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro. "Despite the temporary closure of our main building, our court personnel has activated work stations and offices to continue full operation of Judiciary services." ***(PR)***

Joeten Daidai Foundation is title sponsor for MMAC

The Joeten Daidai Foundation will once again be a title sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer, marking another year of contribution and commitment to the CNMI's fight against cancer.

Title sponsorship is given to one company or organization that has made a donation worth over $3,000 in cash or in-kind services.

This year, the foundation has pledged $2,500 in monetary donations, 25 $50 gift cards to all Joeten stores, and 25 $50 gift cards to Ace Hardware for a total of $5,000 in contributions to MMAC 2018.

"The Joeten Daidai Foundation has always been a proud supporter of MMAC each year, both as a title sponsor and as a team player. We want to say thank you to the Joeten family for their continuous sponsorship and contributions. We are happy to have them on our team as our community joins together to continue the fight against cancer," said MMAC 2018 sponsorship chair Monique Sablan.

"The Joeten family has played a vital role in our mission every year to help those going through this disease. We are very grateful for their recommitment, and we look forward to another great event," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Carline Sablan.

"The contributions made by Joeten speaks highly of their dedication to the cause. They really go the extra mile to ensure that MMAC is more than just an annual event. Battling cancer is a community effort, and we thank them and our community partners for being a part of the fight each and every day," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Bobby Cruz. ***(PR)***

The Joeten Daidai Foundation will once again be a title sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lawyer of singer charged on Guam hopeful for probation

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— An attorney for singer Yvonne Marianne Elliman-Alexander and her husband says he is hopeful they will be sentenced to probation over drug possessions charges in Guam.

The defendants appeared at a hearing Monday after each pleaded guilty to a felony drug possession count filed in August.

Elliman-Alexander performed on the Grammy Award-winning Saturday Night Fever soundtrack in 1978.

The Pacific Daily News reports that airport officers found marijuana in Allen Bernard Alexander's belongings and crystal-like rocks and a glass pipe in Elliman-Alexander's belongings.

They were arrested in Guam, where they were set to perform at a benefit concert.

Their attorney, Mike Phillips, said after the hearing that his clients have completed everything they were assigned.

Bank of Hawaii Corporation

and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2017 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Interest-Bearing Deposits in Other Banks	$ 3,421	Deposits	$14,883,968
Investment Securities	6,161,149	Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase	505,293
Funds Sold	181,413	Retirement Benefits Payable	37,312
Loans Held for Sale	19,231	Accrued Interest Payable	6,946
Loans and Leases	9,796,947	Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes	24,009
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	(107,346)	Other Liabilities	138,940
Net Loans and Leases	9,689,601	Other Debt	260,716
TOTAL EARNING ASSETS	16,054,815	TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,857,184
Cash and Due From Banks	263,017	Shareholders' Equity	
Premises and Equipment, Net	130,926	Common Stock	576
Accrued Interest Receivable	50,485	Capital Surplus	561,161
Foreclosed Real Estate	1,040	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	(34,715)
Mortgage Servicing Rights	24,622	Retained Earnings	1,512,218
Goodwill	31,517	Treasury Stock, at Cost	(807,372)
Bank-Owned Life Insurance	280,034	TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,231,868
Other Assets	252,596	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$17,089,052
TOTAL ASSETS	$17,089,052		

BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN
STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2017 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash	$ 1,364	Deposits	$ 190,655
Loans, Net of Unearned Income	19,759	Accrued Interest Payable	18
Allowance for Loan Losses	(544)	Other Liabilities	31
Net Loans	19,215	TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 190,704
Accrued Interest Receivable	104		
Due from Head Office	169,135		
Premises and Equipment, Net	704		
Other Assets	182		
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 190,704		

The audit reports of Bank of Hawaii Corporation and Bank of Hawaii - Saipan Branches are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump ups the ante by $60 billion in his doomed trade war with China

Trump was evidently just warming up when he ordered global tariffs on steel, aluminum, solar panels and washing machines in recent weeks. The main event came Thursday, when the president announced plans to impose up to $60 billion in tariffs on China. This time, the president is focused on the right problems: China's abuse of U.S. companies that do business there, its pursuit of technology developed here, and its support for hackers who steal trade secrets online.

Unfortunately, Trump is once again offering the wrong solution. The tariffs aren't likely to inflict as much pain on China as they will on U.S. consumers and exporters.

For Trump, China has long represented the worst of the worst among trade cheats. The tariffs announced in previous weeks applied to metals and products from a vast array of countries, but their primary target was Chinese exporters that allegedly sell their goods below cost in defiance of global trade agreements. In the view of top administration officials, those unfair practices have been enormously costly to U.S. companies, causing factories to shut down and thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

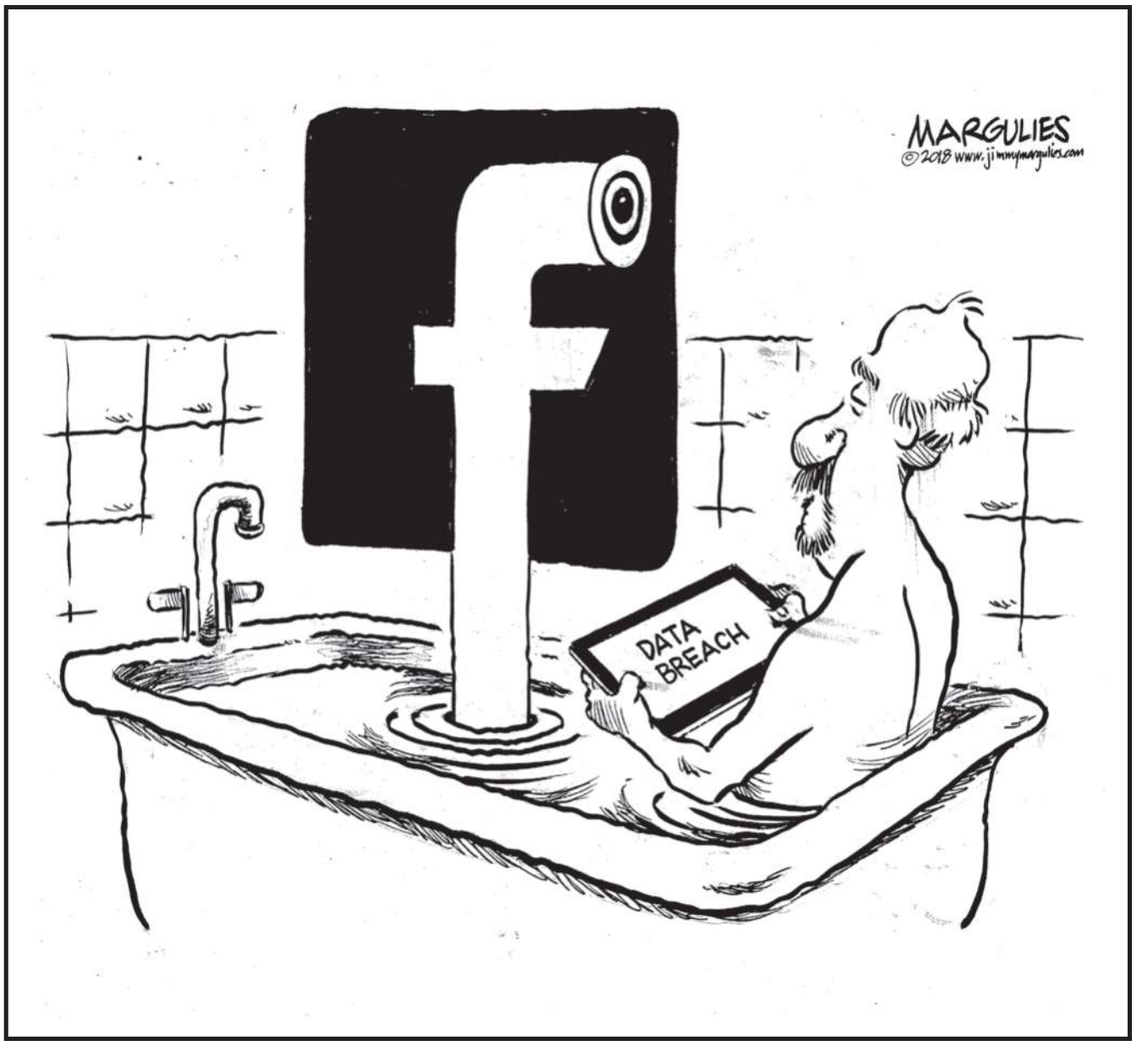
But that's only part of the story. Even if you accept the administration's analysis, it is also true that cheap Chinese materials and assembly factories have helped U.S. companies compete and expand globally (see, e.g., Apple). In fact, one study estimates that the tariffs on steel and aluminum would create about 33,000 jobs at metals factories while costing nearly 180,000 in other industries.

Trump's latest initiative focuses not on Chinese products, but on Chinese behavior—its cavalier attitude toward intellectual property rights and the hostile environment it has created for U.S. companies seeking to operate or invest in China. And on these points, there is widespread agreement that China has not only behaved badly, it has resisted years of pressure from U.S. leaders to change.

Among other things, China continues to require U.S. businesses to create joint ventures with Chinese firms in order to invest in selected industries, and in the process they often are forced to transfer valuable and novel technology to their Chinese partners. China also puts its thumb on the scales in negotiations between U.S. and Chinese firms, helping Chinese companies obtain U.S. technology on favorable terms.

China's bad trade practices were damaging enough when the country was mainly a source of cheap consumer goods. But now that China's industrial policy is focused on dominating such crucial 21st century fields as health sciences, artificial intelligence and aerospace, the stakes are considerably higher.

See TRUMP on Next Page



SNAP benefits vital to low-income communities

By CAROLINE MEEHAN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2019 budget request has me worried for the future health and well-being of our nation's low-income communities. Under this proposal, there is to be an immediate $17 billion reduction to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, followed by a $213.5 billion reduction over the next 10 years.

There are over 40 million people who receive SNAP. Not only does SNAP help families put food on the table, it also provides economic benefits. According to the USDA, every $5 in new SNAP benefits generates $9 in economic activity. SNAP benefits are being spent at farmers' markets, large-chain supermarkets, local groceries and corner stores all throughout America. Many farmers' markets allow recipients to "double their dollar" when using SNAP benefits, enabling participants to eat fresh fruits and vegetables and support local farms in their communities.

The proposal to replace SNAP with "America's harvest box," a box of "shelf-stable" canned and boxed goods, for those households receiving over $90 per month, is perplexing and concerning to say the least. Taking away one's power to choose one product over another, for instance, disrupts a person's powerful connection with food, it disrupts a family's ability to make their favorite dish for Sunday night dinner or to try a new vegetable. Sending a box of canned foods does not allow a person the choice between fresh, frozen or canned produce. Additionally, canned foods are often high in sodium, which may also pose difficulty for people who need to follow a low-sodium diet.

SNAP is not perfect, but combined with the nutritional education on how to eat healthy on a budget, I believe SNAP can be used effectively to help sustain nutritional status and improve overall health. Nutrition education is essential in improving the health of low-income communities, which is where SNAP education _ or "SNAP-ed," the nutrition education component of SNAP _ comes into play. SNAP-ed can help SNAP recipients make healthier decisions with these funds, make the most of each dollar and understand importance of eating a well-balanced diet. In Maryland, for example, the Text2BeHealthy program, a healthy text messaging service to promote healthy eating behaviors, developed under SNAP-ed, reaches over 2,000 parents annually. According to their fiscal year 2016 report, over 20,000 low-income youth participants in Maryland received nutrition education through Maryland's SNAP-ed.

Another key nutrition education program under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Child Nutrition Program, is proposed to receive a $1.1 billion reduction in funds. Having previously worked as a nutrition educator on the USDA Summer Food Service Program in Philadelphia, which helps low-income children receive meals during the summer months, I know firsthand the positive impact that these programs can have on hundreds of families. Research shows that children affected by food insecurity may have more problems with academics, emotional and behavioral health. Given that research also shows food and beverage ads to be more prevalent in lower-income neighborhoods, education on healthy behaviors that start during childhood is essential.

Without these programs to educate on the importance of choosing nutrient-dense foods and healthy eating on a budget, fruits, vegetables and lean proteins are typically not at the top of the grocery list. People often turn to the processed snacks high in sodium and added sugar. This in turn is contributing to the alarming prevalence of obesity, diabetes and heart disease in communities. I believe reductions in the SNAP budget and elimination of SNAP-ed will worsen this epidemic and increase food insecurity, hunger and poverty. In the health care setting, we will see more patients come into clinics and hospital emergency rooms with worsening, uncontrolled diet-related diseases. Research shows the correlation between food insecurity and increased health care costs.

SNAP benefits and nutrition education programs, including but not limited to SNAP-ed and the Child Nutrition Program, are vital to help improve the health of low-income neighborhoods throughout America. We need these programs to continue receiving adequate funding; the public health of lower-income communities is at stake.

Caroline Meehan is a registered dietitian nutritionist in Baltimore. She wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The mindfulness pandemic: a symptom or cure?

By JACOB M. APPEL
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Mindfulness has rapidly become the new mantra in mental health. The vaguely defined self-improvement method draws upon both Buddhist and Transcendental traditions to emphasize focus on the present moment and radical self-acceptance. Jon Kabat-Zinn, one of its earliest and most prominent champions, has described it as "a way of befriending ourselves and our experiences." What was once a niche movement has metastasized over the past decade. Colleges and medical schools now encourage mindfulness to reduce stress. Corporations offer mindfulness training to increase employee well-being. If the fliers posted around my workplace are to be believed, one can learn the basics of this panacea with only 15 minutes of training.

Advocates of mindfulness argue that it works—to reduce depression and anxiety, and to improve overall psychological welfare. Yet "does it work?" may be the wrong question.

It is important to acknowledge that, depending on your outcome measures, mindfulness meditation does appear to manifest some clinical results. An analysis published in 2014 found "moderate evidence" for improved anxiety, depression and pain. Several studies have shown roughly similar efficacy for mindfulness therapies and medication for depression, although both interventions only benefit some patients some of the time. What is unclear is whether mindfulness, in its attenuated westernized form, actually resolves underlying causes of dysphoria or merely masks them temporarily—the psychological equivalent of painting white roses red.

As an emergency room psychiatrist, I find myself pondering the most fundamental and disturbing of questions: Why are so many Americans so unhappy? We live in the wealthiest society in the entire span of history, privileged with peace and freedom and relative opportunity. One in six Americans now takes psychiatric medication, principally antidepressants and anxiolytics. Six percent of college students contemplate suicide annually. In our nursing homes, mood-altering medications are doled out like sugar water. Can we really expect enhanced self-reflection to rescue us from this maelstrom?

I find the patients I treat are unhappy because they are disconnected. Nineteenth century French diplomat Alexis de Tocqueville once admired Americans for their relentless joining of voluntary associations; now we are a nation who (to quote the title of Robert D. Putnam's seminal indictment) goes "Bowling Alone." As we expand our number of online "friends," sociologists report dramatic declines in our social and kinship networks. My grandparents, on a rough day, could call upon countless relatives and neighbors for support. Increasingly, according to data from the General Social Survey, more Americans have nobody—not a single human being—with whom to discuss important personal matters.

As we have become more isolated, we have also become more narcissistic. Analysis by Jean Twenge and Joshua Foster showed a substantial increase in this trait among college students between 1982 and 2009 as measured by Narcissistic Personality Inventory scores. Since the street homeless are strangers to us, it is easier to step over them. We have become, in a sense, an entire society of Kitty Genovese's proverbial neighbors. We ask not what we can do for our country or our neighbors or those less fortunate because we lack bonds beyond ourselves. Instead, we sit at home alone, grumbling, asking the talking heads on the television what our country can do for us.

Rather than a cure for this social detachment, pandemic mindfulness may be a symptom. We should not be surprised that an increasingly narcissistic, isolated culture produces a mental health movement that encourages us to look inward. Nor should we be surprised if such self-focused tendencies make matters worse. There is not a lot of research comparing the efficacy of mindfulness training to participating in bowling leagues or volunteering in soup kitchens. But at least if you volunteer in a soup kitchen, you have accomplished something beyond the walls of your own psyche. That should offer food for reflection.

Dr. Jacob M. Appel (www.jacobmappel.com) is a psychiatrist and bioethicist. His most recent book is Millard Salter's Last Day (Simon & Schuster/Gallery, 2017).

KAG! Man Comes and Goes Before His Fall

Author's Note: At a rally in mid-March 2018, President 45 announced his new campaign slogan, "KAG!" repeating the exclamation points with his finger)

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Yes! "KAG!! Keep America Great!!" in 2020 with 2020 KGB Vision
DJT's slogan for his 2020 campaign is "Keep America Great!!"
he signaled the emphasis on the two exclamation points with his finger
Americans can't wait for his exit, that would really be just GREAT!!
He needs to be wary of his friends in what used to be called the KGB
and all his oligarch business associates in the Russian Federation
who will take quick advantage of any weakness they happen to see
to denigrate, devalue, and deconstruct our US democratic situation.
45 with his bigly bluster is his own worst enemy when it comes to that
with his continuous denigration of USA institutions the DOJ and the FBI
giving in to impetuous temper tantrums, junk food binging, getting fat
eating his own daily lying words and poking his finger in his own eye
KAG, Keep All Golf courses owned by 45 up and running in the black
keep him out on them, few other than his base want him to come back.

DJT: Norm Breaker, Bone Spur Faker, Etc.
Disregard for established political protocols a norm breaker
DJT to avoid military service became a bone spur faker
a billionaire tax dodger and long time no tax return taker
oligarch business buddies a regular ruble money maker
junk food junkie diplomacy skills chocolate cake baker
Trumpty Dumpty futures market immigrant wall maker
admitted lying to Canadian Prime Minister deficit facts faker
runs hotels and golf courses a personal emolument intaker
hired swamp drainage employees a bigly hypocritical snaker
inept cabinet members causing fear quaking earth shaker
balding guy with swept yellow hair dye and hair spray raker
daily BS twaddling twit thoughtless tweeting shake and baker
greetum tweetum insulting TV personalities morning waker
evangelical darling Daniels in the Lions Den undertake her.

KAG!! Man Next To Be Fired? Legal Fingers Point
Keep America Great!! 2020 Donald J. Trump just can't wait
still our great America way before him keeps on going
who is next to put millions of dollars on the campaign plate
while firings, resignations and departures keep on flowing
From top to bottom of 45's beleaguered White House staff
resignations left and right it seems like almost day to day
America doesn't know whether to cry out loud or laugh
in critical departments and embassies empty offices stay
Who is still in line working hard for their impetuous boss
so many appointments are gone its hard to keep tracking
please let the next one be comic tragic Ed Sec'y DeVos
and cabinet members whose job preparedness is lacking
Despite all this our already great America keeps on going
with 45 a lying bumbling blatherskite totally unknowing

45 aka David Dennison Pre Present Post Fall
45 flew back in shame to his golf courses and Trump Tower
forgetting all those he had fired, forced to resign and sent
home his WH staff and DC workers thrown under the bus
Special Counsel Mueller still working long and late hours
having treed the Tidal Basin's No. 1 swamp possum issued
indictments, subpoenas, convictions, all that grand jury fuss
Stormy's entanglement millions tell of Daniels in the lions den
she and David Dennison (45) will tell all the dirt to remind us
lets not forget millions of American citizens who have mused
been cyber abused and grown used to all 45's babbling tweets
ask those on the streets if they give Trump a negative or a plus
mean streets, these tweets, those tweets, all tweets yet to come
resulting from Donald Drumpf tweeting with just one thumb
to absolutely no ones satisfaction they all come out just dumb

TRUMP

From Page 10

That's why Trump's tough talk and actions are drawing plaudits from some lawmakers in both parties, whose patience with China has understandably grown thin. And two pieces of Trump's latest order—imposing restrictions on Chinese investments in the U.S. to match the ones China imposes on U.S. companies, and asking the World Trade Organization to rule against China's "discriminatory licensing practices"—are welcome steps that respect the WTO and international trade agreements that the U.S. has pushed the world to embrace.

On the other hand, it's hard to see how slapping tariffs on as-yet-identified products will induce China to honor intellectual property rights, permit more investment by U.S. firms or stop trying to steal trade secrets online. The tariffs will no doubt raise the price that U.S. consumers pay for those products. And they will just as surely prompt China to retaliate against U.S. exports, even as it finds new buyers for its own goods. That's been the result when the U.S. has unilaterally imposed tariffs in the past, and there's no reason to think the outcome would be any different this time.

The right steps to take are the ones that Trump has disdained since the day he took office. The industry groups and countries that have succeeded in changing China's trade practices have been the ones that have acted in broad coalitions. Governments around the globe have complained about Chinese violations; the Trump administration should be organizing trading blocs to jointly demand changes from the Chinese through globally recognized institutions like the WTO that exist for just that purpose, backed up with tariffs and other sanctions if they don't deliver.

Instead, the administration has gone in the exact opposite direction, bullying trade partners, threatening to cancel major free-trade deals and undermining the WTO. One of Trump's first acts as president, in fact, was to pull the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership—a 12-nation pact the U.S. had organized to counterbalance China's influence in Asia and establish high standards for intellectual property protection, state-owned industries and other trade norms.

By calling out China's mistreatment of foreign investors and competitors, Trump has echoed the sentiments of government leaders around the world. If only he'd lined them up—any of them—to help make his sanctions work.

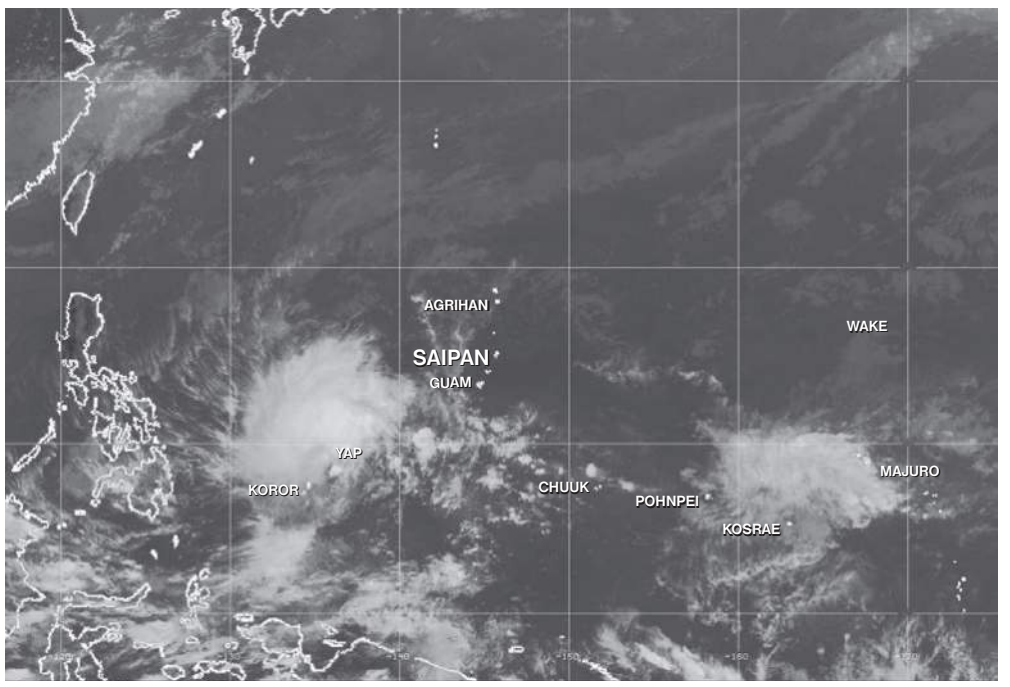
(c)2018 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



-120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170

PICTURE TIME: 7:58 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The enhanced pressure gradient north of Tropical Depression Jelawat will continue to affect the Marianas today. As it pulls farther away, the effects will diminish starting tonight. We end up with winds turning south later, then southwest. It will not last long before trades nose back in. At that time, over the next weekend, we should end up back in a dry season trade-wind regime.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	79° / 48°
Hong Kong	Sunny	77° / 68°
Honolulu	Sunny	81° / 65°
London	Rain	55° / 43°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	86° / 59°
Miami	Windy	75° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	49° / 40°
Osaka	Sunny	72° / 52°
Paris	Rain	55° / 48°
Busan	Sunny	66° / 50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Salem	Cloudy	69° / 56°
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 48°
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 54°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 43°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
10:39 AM	LOW TIDE	1.13
3:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.70
10:53 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:40 am	2:28 pm
Wednesday	-	3:34 am	3:28 pm
Thursday	-	4:24 am	4:27 pm
Friday	-	5:12 am	5:24 pm
Saturday	-	5:57 am	6:19 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Facebook questioned about pulling Android call, text data

By TOM KRISHER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

We have a responsibility to protect your information. If we can't, we don't deserve it.
You may have heard about a quiz app built by a university researcher that leaked Facebook data of millions of people in 2014. This was a breach of trust, and I'm sorry we didn't do more at the time. We're now taking steps to make sure this doesn't happen again.
We've already stopped apps like this from getting so much information. Now we're limiting the data apps get when you sign in using Facebook.
We're also investigating every single app that had access to large amounts of data before we fixed this. We expect there are others. And when we find them, we will ban them and tell everyone affected.
Finally, we'll remind you which apps you've given access to your information – so you can shut off the ones you don't want anymore.
Thank you for believing in this community. I promise to do better for you.
Mark Zuckerberg

AP
An advertisement in The New York Times is displayed on Sunday, March 25, 2018, in New York.

On the same day Facebook bought ads in U.S. and British newspapers to apologize for the Cambridge Analytica scandal, the social media site faced new questions about collecting phone numbers and text messages from Android devices.

The website Ars Technica reported that users who checked data gathered by Facebook on them found that it had years of contact names, telephone numbers, call lengths and text messages.

Facebook said Sunday the information is uploaded to secure servers and comes only from Android users who opt-in to allow it. Spokeswomen say the data is not sold or shared with users' friends or outside apps. They say the data is used "to improve people's experience across Facebook" by helping to connect with others.

The company also says in a website posting that it does not collect the content of text messages or calls. A spokeswoman told the Associated Press that Facebook uses the information to rank contacts in Messenger so they are easier to find, and to suggest people to call.

Users get the option to allow data collection when they sign up for Messenger or Facebook Lite, the Facebook posting said. "If you chose to turn this feature on, we will begin to continuously log this information," the posting said.

The data collection can be turned off in a user's settings, and all previously collected call and text history shared on the app will be deleted, Facebook said.

The feature was first introduced on Facebook Messenger in 2015 and added later on Facebook Lite.

Messages were left Sunday seeking comment about security from Google officials, who make the Android operating system.

Reports of the data collection came as Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg took out ads in multiple U.S. and British Sunday newspapers to apologize for the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

The ads say the social media platform doesn't deserve to hold personal information if it can't protect it.

According to the ads, a quiz app built by a Cambridge University researcher leaked Facebook data of millions of people four years ago. Zuckerberg said this was a "breach of trust" and that Facebook is taking steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Facebook's privacy practices have come under fire after Cambridge Analytica, a Trump-affiliated political consulting firm, got data inappropriately. The social media platform's stock value has dropped over $70 billion since the revelations were first published.

Confronting the office vaper

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: The woman who shares my office recently began using electronic cigarettes. Even though our company has banned all types of smoking, "Carla" completely ignores this policy. She says that vaping is not a problem because e-cigs are much safer than regular cigarettes.

While electronic smoking may be better for Carla, I do not enjoy breathing her second-hand fumes. I have tried not to express my irritation because Carla is old enough to be my mother, and I don't want to be disrespectful. However, I know I have become increasingly grumpy with her. What should I do about this?

A. While confronting a much older colleague can be disconcerting, the strength of your position should boost your confidence. Being subjected to a vapor-filled office is not only a justifiable complaint, but also a clear violation of company policy. So even though Carla may seem parental, try to view her as just another coworker.

In any job, the ability to calmly discuss differences is a very important skill. As you have discovered, unresolved frustrations have a way of showing up in your behavior, which only tends to worsen the relationship. So instead of continuing to convey irritation through grumpiness, you need to raise this issue in a pleasantly assertive manner.

For example: "Carla, I probably should have mentioned this sooner, but the fumes from your electronic cigarettes really bother me. Company policy states that no smoking of any type is allowed, and that includes vaping. Since we have to share this space, I need to ask you not to smoke in the office."

Carla may resent this request, but as long as she complies, your problem is solved. However, if she continues to pollute your workspace, calmly advise her that you will need to discuss the issue with management. If she still persists in this offensive and prohibited behavior, then her maturity has clearly not caught up with her age.

Q: Ten years ago, during a contentious divorce, my son "Paul" was convicted of a low-level felony and placed on the sex offender registry. After being employed in our family business for 30 years, Paul must now begin looking for work, as we will soon be closing the company. He is terrified that no one will hire him because of his record. Do you have any advice?

A: First, Paul needs to consult an attorney who has expertise in this field. If his was truly a lesser offense, he might be able to have his name removed from the registry.

But if removal isn't possible, Paul should employ the same strategy as anyone who risks being screened out due to unalterable circumstances. Because a strong personal impression can outweigh difficult facts, job-seeking must be approached through established relationships, not random applications.

Implementing this strategy means becoming a proficient networker, so Paul should look for books and online resources to sharpen his job-seeking skills. He will then be ready to capitalize on his greatest asset—that is, connections made through thirty years of employment.

Paul's family business contacts should be able to jumpstart his job search with networking referrals, job leads, and favorable references. After that, he must do everything possible to become an impressive applicant.

Many states looking to help workers save for retirement

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York is among a growing number of states considering legislation to create government-sponsored payroll-deduction retirement programs for small businesses, which financial planners say could be a relatively painless way to help Americans reverse a dismal record of saving for their golden years.

Personal finance expert Jean Chatzky notes 52 percent of American households age 55 or over have no retirement savings, leaving them with only Social Security. She's working with AARP in New York and other states to lobby for an individual retirement account plan with state oversight for small businesses that allows workers to have a portion of their paychecks set aside automatically.

"In my book of money rules, my favorite one is: 'If you can't see it and can't touch it, you won't spend it,'" Chatzky said. "That's the magic behind the 401(k) and other work-based retirement plans. The problem for 3.5 million New Yorkers is that they don't have access to one."

With an estimated 55 million Americans lacking access to retirement plans at work, 40 states have considered legislation since 2012 to establish state-facilitated retirement programs for private-sector workers. Five have enacted state-run programs and two, New Jersey and Washington state, have launched marketplaces connecting employers with low-cost private-sector retirement plans.

New York's plan, proposed by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo in his 2018 budget and awaiting action in the Legislature, would have a state board oversee investments made through payroll deduction with no employer contribution.

It's similar to initiatives launched in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland and Oregon, but with a key difference: Participation by businesses would be voluntary in New York, while the other five states mandate that companies meeting a certain size threshold automatically enroll all employees.

"We think it's a fantastic idea," said Corey Meyer, who with his wife Sara owns Little Bird Kitchen, a Long Island confectioner that makes jalapeno-laced chocolates. "It allows small businesses to have access to employee perks that normally we can't afford."

The Business Council of New York State, which represents private employers, initially opposed the legislation. But the group is reevaluating its position pending clarification of the voluntary nature of the program, said Lev Ginsburg, the Business Council's financial services expert.

Mandated state-run retirement savings plans have gotten pushback from businesses and Congressional Republicans who say they stifle private competition, impose onerous regulations and expose employers to lawsuits.

Last year, President Donald Trump signed legislation revoking an Obama-era Labor Department rule designed to provide a legal safe haven for the state programs, which Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called "more government at the expense of the private sector and American workers."

Nation

Supreme Court takes up 2nd major partisan redistricting case

AP
In this Tuesday, April 4, 2017, file photo, the Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court has already heard, but not decided, a major case about political line-drawing that has the potential to reshape American politics.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court has already heard a major case about political line-drawing that has the potential to reshape American politics. Now, before even deciding that one, the court is taking up another similar case.

The arguments justices will hear Wednesday in the second case, a Republican challenge to a Democratic-leaning congressional district in Maryland, could offer fresh clues to what they are thinking about partisan gerrymandering, an increasingly hot topic before courts.

Decisions in the Maryland case and the earlier one from Wisconsin are expected by late June.

The arguments come nearly six months after the court heard a dispute over Wisconsin legislative districts that Democrats claim were drawn to maximize Republican control in a state that is closely divided between the parties.

The Supreme Court has never thrown out electoral districts on partisan grounds and it's not clear the justices will do so now. But supporters of limits on partisanship in redistricting are encouraged that the justices are considering two cases.

"In taking these two cases, the Supreme Court wants to say something about partisan gerrymandering. It's clear the Supreme Court is not walking away from the issue," said Michael Li, senior counsel at the New York University law school's Brennan Center for Justice.

The justices' involvement in partisan redistricting reflects a period of unusual activity in the courts on this topic. Over the past 16 months, courts struck down political districting plans drawn by Republicans in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Federal judges threw out a state legislative map in Wisconsin and a congressional plan in North Carolina. In Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court invalidated the state's congressional districts and replaced them with a court-drawn plan.

When the Supreme Court heard Wisconsin's appeal, the court appeared to be split along familiar lines. Four liberal justices seemed inclined to strike down the legislative map and four conservatives appeared more favorable to it. That left Justice Anthony Kennedy seemingly in control of the outcome.

A relatively quick resolution of the case also appeared likely, based on the way the court handled the case. A lower court had earlier struck down the districts and ordered new ones drawn. The justices blocked the drawing of a new map last summer, but set the case for arguments in the first week of its new term in October.

Then in December, the court said it would hear the case about Maryland's 6th congressional district, but provided no further explanation about why it was adding a second redistricting case.

Democrats who controlled redistricting in Maryland in 2011 made a conscious decision to try to increase the party's control of congressional districts from 6-2 to 7-1, said Michael Kimberly, the lawyer representing the Republican challengers.

They took a district that had been centered in rural, Republican-leaning northwestern Maryland, where a longtime Republican incumbent won by 28 percentage points in 2010 and turned it into a district that took in some Democratic Washington, D.C., suburbs and elected a Democrat who won by 21 percentage points in 2012.

The change violated the First Amendment rights of the Republican voters, Kimberly said.

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, a Democrat, said in defending the district that it is competitive for both parties and has elected a moderate Democrat. In 2014, a friendlier year for Republican candidates, Democratic Rep. John Delaney's victory margin dropped to less than 2 points, though it rose again in 2016.

Video shows man before being shot by Texas deputy

HOUSTON (AP)—Cellphone video of a sheriff's deputy fatally shooting an unarmed black man shows the man wandering in a Houston street with his pants around his ankles and continuing to approach the deputy as the officer tells him to stop.

The video, obtained by the Houston Chronicle from a civilian witness , does not show the actual shooting because a car passes in front of the cellphone camera as the Harris County deputy fires a single shot. A spokesman for the sheriff's office says the man had an object in his hand, but no weapon was recovered at the scene.

Family members identified the man as 34-year-old Danny Ray Thomas, and said he had been devastated after two of his children were killed in 2016. The children's mother is accused of drowning them in a bathtub.

Officers were responding to reports that a man was walking in the intersection with his pants down hitting cars as he mumbled to himself. Before the deputy arrived, a motorist had stopped in the intersection to confront Thomas. The deputy, whose name has not been released, broke up the altercation and can be seen in the video walking backward away from Thomas with his gun drawn, shouting commands at Thomas.

He can be seen telling Thomas to stop walking and get down, but Thomas continues to approach the deputy. A gunshot can be heard on the video, but can't been seen. The deputy is next seen on the video crouching over Thomas, who is face down on the pavement.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas issued a statement Sunday calling on the sheriff's department to release any dashcam and body-camera footage in the shooting and for the department to review its use-of-force policies to "demand lethal force only be used as a last resort."

"It's difficult to imagine how this shooting could possibly be justified. We must demand that our law enforcement agencies, who are sworn to protect our communities, be held accountable whenever deadly force is used unlawfully," Sharon Watkins-Jones, director of political strategies of the ACLU of Texas, said. "But whatever the excuse, another unarmed black man has been killed by law enforcement, in the street and in broad daylight, and the only reason we know about it is because of bystander footage."

Thomas' sister, Kita Thomas, said she and her brother both suffered depression and helped each other survive recent events.

According to court records, Sheborah Thomas, the mother of Danny Thomas' children, is facing two capital murder charges for allegedly drowning their 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son in a bathtub before hiding their bodies under a neighbor's house in August 2016.

Court records show Danny Thomas was serving a prison sentence for a drug-related offense when the children were killed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Iowa family died of gas asphyxiation at Mexican resort

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Autopsies indicate an Iowa couple and their two children died from inhaling toxic gas at a rented condo on Mexico's Caribbean coast, but there was no sign of foul play or suicide, Mexican authorities said Saturday. The prosecutors' office in the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo said that "the cause of death was asphyxiation from inhaling toxic gases." It said the type of gas hadn't yet been determined, but added that "any violent act or suicide has been discounted." Photos released by the office showed investigators in anti-contamination suits and firefighters with air tanks examining gas connections to a stove in the condo in Tulum. The office said investigators "carried out a physical investigation of the gas connections in the room," and the civil defense office of Tulum would issue a technical report on the findings. In 2010, the explosion of an improperly installed gas line at a hotel in the nearby town of Playa del Carmen killed five Canadian tourists and two Mexicans. Iowa officials identified the family as Kevin Sharp, 41; his wife, Amy Sharp, 38, and their children Sterling, 12, and Adrianna, 7. They were from Creston, Iowa. The family was reported missing by relatives in their hometown about a week after the family left for vacation. Creston police contacted the U.S. State Department, and the bodies were found during a welfare check at the condo in Tulum, on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Rick Santorum: Students should learn CPR, not seek gun laws

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum said Sunday that students who have rallied for gun control should instead learn CPR or find their own way to prevent a school shooting. "How about kids instead of looking to someone else to solve their problem, do something about maybe taking CPR classes or trying to deal with situations that when there is a violent shooter that you can actually respond to that," the Republican said on CNN's "State of the Union." The 2012 and 2016 presidential candidate said students could work to stop bullying in their communities or respond themselves to a shooter instead of asking lawmakers to approve legislation to protect them. Santorum's comments prompted outrage on social media a day after hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. to push for tougher laws to fight gun violence. The demonstrations Saturday were led by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed last month. Santorum said that if the rallies are about more than politics, then the country needs to have a broader discussion that doesn't revolve around "phony gun laws" that don't work. "They took action to ask someone to pass a law," he said of the demonstrators. "They didn't take action to say, 'How do I, as an individual, deal with this problem? ***(AP)***

Asia

Malaysia government proposes 10 years in jail for fake news

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government on Monday proposed new legislation to outlaw fake news with a 10-year jail term for offenders, a move slammed by critics as a draconian bid to crack down on dissent ahead of a general election.

Prime Minister Najib Razak has been dogged by a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal involving an indebted state fund, and rights activists fear the new law could be used to criminalize reports on government misconduct and critical opinions. A general election must be held by August but is widely expected in the next few weeks.

The anti-fake news bill, which must be approved by parliament, calls for penalizing those who create, offer, circulate, print or publish fake news or publications containing fake news with a 10-year jail term, a fine of up to 500,000 ringgit ($128,000) or both.

The bill defines fake news as "any news, information, data and reports which is, or are, wholly or partly false whether in the form of features, visuals or audio recordings or in any other form capable of suggesting words or ideas." It covers all mediums and extends to even foreigners outside Malaysia as long as Malaysia or its citizens are affected.

"This is an attack on the press and an attempt to instill fear among the (people)" before the general election, opposition lawmaker Ong Kian Ming tweeted.

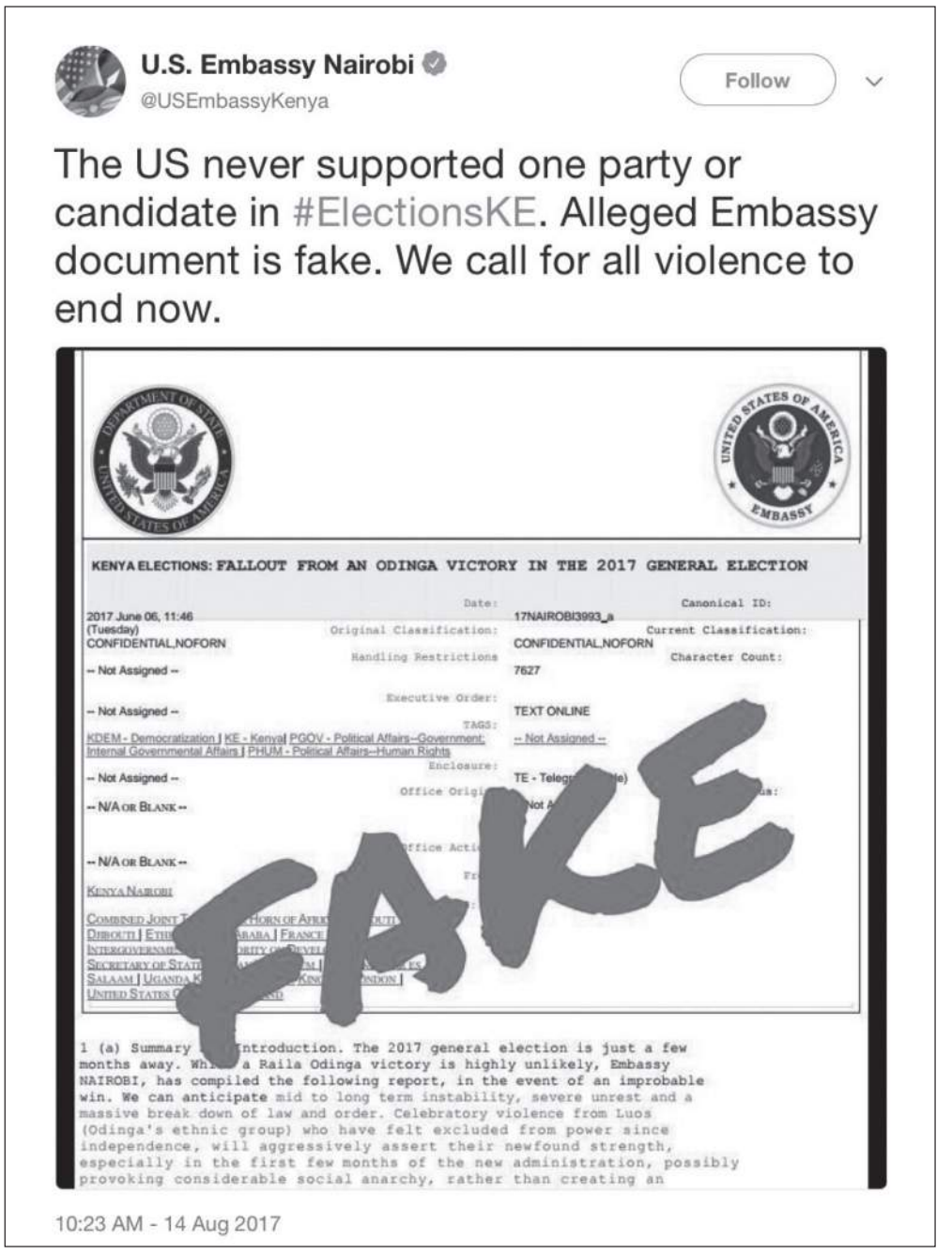
Government officials have said the law is needed to protect public harmony and national security. They have accused the opposition coalition of using fake news as a key weapon to win votes and warned that any news on the indebted 1MDB state fund that had not been verified by the government is fake.

The U.S. and several other countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, which was set up and previously led by Prime Minister Najib to promote economic development, but which accumulated billions in debt. The U.S. Justice Department says at least $4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib, and it is working to seize $1.7 billion taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S., potentially its largest asset seizure ever.

Najib, who denies any wrongdoing, has fired critics in his government and muzzled the media since the corruption scandal erupted three years ago.

Support for Najib's ruling coalition has dwindled in the last two elections. In 2013, it lost the popular vote for the first time to the opposition. Yet analysts say Najib is expected to win a third term due to infighting in the opposition, unfavorable electoral boundary changes and strong support for the government among rural ethnic Malays.

Critics said the anti-fake news bill will add to a range of repressive laws, including a sedition law, a stiff press and publications act, an official secrets act and a security act, that have been used against critics, violated freedom of expression and undermined media freedom. A coalition of human rights and civic groups also expressed concern that the government was rushing through the legislation, without consulting key stakeholders and releasing details in advance for public scrutiny.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KENYA ELECTIONS: FALLOUT FROM AN ODINGA VICTORY IN THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTION
FAKE
1 (a) Summary and Introduction. The 2017 general election is just a few months away. While a Raila Odinga victory is highly unlikely, Embassy NAIROBI, has compiled the following report, in the event of an improbable win. We can anticipate mid to long term instability, severe unrest and a massive break down of law and order. Celebratory violence from Luos (Odinga's ethnic group) who have felt excluded from power since independence, will aggressively assert their newfound strength, especially in the first few months of the new administration, possibly provoking considerable social anarchy, rather than creating an
10:23 AM - 14 Aug 2017

AP

This Tweet from the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi from Aug. 14, 2017, calls out a alleged embassy document as being fake news. Malaysia's government on Monday proposed new legislation to outlaw fake news with a 10-year jail term for offenders.

Turkmenistan votes for rubber-stamp parliament

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—Voters in authoritarian Turkmenistan on Sunday chose a new parliament in an election that included candidates from three parties and some independents, but no real opposition to President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov.

The 125-seat Mejlis is largely a rubber-stamp body for Berdymukhamedov, who as president since 2007 has established a personality cult that reaches all levels of society, styling him as the Arkadag (protector).

Songs praising Berdymukhamedov played at one polling station in the capital, Ashgabat. The national elections commission reported turnout of more than 85 percent as of two hours before polls closed. Election results are expected to be announced within three days.

"Our people always happily take part in elections, which are a holiday for us. It doesn't matter who wins in them because all the candidates for parliament deputies are dignified people," voter Dzhahan Khudaikulieva said.

But enthusiasm for the election wasn't universal.

"I'm not going to the elections today because I don't see the sense. Prices for food products, medical supplies and medicines are constantly rising," said a 70-year-old retiree who gave her name only as Valentina, because she feared repercussions.

Turkmenistan's economy is heavily dependent on natural gas exports, and the country was hit hard when Russia stopped buying Turkmen gas in 2016. The country is placing hopes for increased revenue on an under-construction pipeline to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Berdymukhamedov last fall ordered an end to the free natural gas, electricity and water that residents of the ex-Soviet nation had enjoyed for a quarter century.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea's coast guard rescues all 163 after ferry hits rock

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's coast guard said it rescued all 163 people from a ferry that hit a large rock in waters off the country's southwestern coast on Sunday. At least six people sustained minor injuries. A coast guard official said the ferry's 158 passengers and five crewmembers were being taken to shore on four coast guard vessels and a number of civilian fishing boats. The rescue operation went smoothly because the ferry wasn't flooded and didn't lose its balance despite the crash off islands in Sinan County, he said. The coast guard initially said the ferry was carrying 187 passengers, but later revised the number to 158. The official said it appeared the ferry hit the rock while trying to avoid a fishing boat while traveling in foggy waters. Rescue workers treated six people for minor injuries caused from the shock of the crash, which left the ferry's front pushed atop the rock, he said. Another coast guard official, from the nearby port of Mokpo, said his department planned to question the ferry's captain and crew members to investigate the cause of the crash. Tests from alcohol detectors showed that none of them had been drinking before the accident, he said.

China allows wife of Taiwan activist to visit him in prison

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese human rights group says the wife of a jailed pro-democracy activist will visit him in prison in China this week. The Taiwan Association for Human Rights said Lee Ching-yu left Taiwan on Monday to see her husband Lee Ming-che in prison in central China. The group said Lee Ching-yu would meet with her husband on Tuesday. Lee Ming-che is serving a five-year prison sentence after being convicted by a Chinese court in November of the vaguely defined charge of "subversion of state power." Lee was found guilty of subversion for holding online political lectures and helping the families of jailed dissidents in China. His conviction showed how Beijing's harshest crackdown on human rights in decades has extended beyond the Chinese mainland. Beijing regards self-ruled Taiwan as part of Chinese territory. The Yueyang City Intermediate People's Court in central China handed down the sentence against Lee in November after finding him guilty of subversion of state power. Lee had confessed during his trial in September, which his wife dismissed as "a political show."

Attack on Shiite mosque in Afghanistan kills 1, wounds 7

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two suicide bombers attacked a Shiite mosque in Afghanistan's western Herat province on Sunday, killing one person and wounding seven others in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. Police spokesman Abdul Ahad Walizada said the toll may rise from Sunday's attack. He said both bombers tried to enter the mosque but one was shot dead by guards before making it inside. IS claimed the attack in a brief statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. The Sunni extremist group has frequently targeted Afghanistan's Shiite minority, which it views as apostates. An Islamic State suicide bomber targeted a group of Shiites marking the Persian new year in Afghanistan's capital last week, killing more than 30 people.

World

Catalan ex-leader's capture in Germany sparks mass protests

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Five months after going on the run from Spanish authorities, Catalonia's former president was detained in Germany on an international warrant Sunday by highway police after the ardent separatist crossed the border with Denmark.

Carles Puigdemont's capture, aided by Spanish intelligence services, sparked protests of tens of thousands in Catalonia's main city of Barcelona and other towns in the wealthy northeastern corner of Spain. Some of the demonstrators clashed with riot police, leaving more than 50 civilians and police officers injured and leading to four arrests. Puigdemont will appear before a German judge on Monday.

Spain was plunged into its worst political crisis in four decades when Puigdemont's government flouted a court ban and held an ad-hoc referendum on independence for the northeastern region in October.

The Catalan parliament's subsequent declaration of independence received no international recognition and provoked a takeover of the regional government by Spanish authorities that they say won't be lifted until a new government that respects Spain's Constitution is in place.

Spain's state prosecutor office said it was in contact with its German counterparts to carry out its request to extradite Puigdemont to Spain, where he faces charges including rebellion that could put him in prison for up to 30 years.

AP

Demonstrators march holding a banner reading in Catalan "Freedom for the political prisoners" during a protest in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, March 25, 2018.

In Barcelona, riot police shoved and struck protesters with batons to keep an angry crowd from advancing on the office of the Spanish government's representative. Police vans showed stains of yellow paint reportedly thrown by protestors. Reinforcements were called in after several hours to clear the neighboring streets, with protestors tossing street barriers and burning two garbage bins as they retreated.

Outside the city center, groups of demonstrators cut off traffic on four different stretches of highways. Police also used batons to keep back a crowd of a few thousand who had gathered in front of the Spanish government's representative in the city of Lleida.

German highway police stopped Puigdemont on Sunday morning near the A7 highway that leads into Germany from Denmark, police in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein said.

German news agency dpa said that Puigdemont was taken to a prison in the northern town of Neumuenster. Dpa photos showed a van with tinted windows believed to be carrying Puigdemont as it arrived at the prison. Video footage also showed the same van leaving a police station in Schuby near the A7 highway.

State prosecutors in Schleswig said that Puigdemont will appear in court Monday in the northern German town to confirm his identity. It said in a statement that "the question of whether Mr. Puigdemont has to be taken into extradition custody will then have to be determined by the higher regional court in Schleswig."

German state prosecutor Ralph Doepper told RTL Television that Puigdemont has been "provisionally detained. He has not been arrested."

"We are now examining the further procedure, i.e. tomorrow we will decide whether we will file a provisional application for detention with the competent district court, which could lead to extradition detention later on," Doepper said.

A Spanish police official told The Associated Press under customary condition of anonymity that Spain's National Center for Intelligence and police agents from its international cooperation division helped German police to locate Puigdemont.

A Spanish Supreme Court judge reactivated an international arrest warrant for Puigdemont on Friday when he was visiting Finland. Spain has also issued five warrants for other separatist who fled the country.

Ines Arrimadas, the leader of the pro-Spain Citizens party which has the most seats in Catalonia's Parliament, said that the chaos on the streets was "of a society broken in two" by the secessionist movement.

Report: Bombs disguised as rocks in Yemen show Iranian aid

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Roadside bombs disguised as rocks in Yemen bear similarities to others used by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and by insurgents in Iraq and Bahrain, suggesting at the least an Iranian influence in their manufacture, a watchdog group said on Monday.

The report by Conflict Armament Research comes as the West and United Nations researchers accuse Iran of supplying arms to Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who have held the country's capital since September 2014.

Those weapons allegedly included ballistic missiles used to target Saudi Arabia, which leads a military coalition of Arab nations backed by the United States that is stuck in a stalemate war with the Houthis. A barrage of Houthi missile fire late on Sunday killed one person in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and wounded two others.

Iran has long denied supplying arms to the Houthis, and its mission to the United Nations is dismissing the new report. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has derided such weapons research as "fabricating evidence."

The report is just the latest sign of how the conflict in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country where over 10,000 people have been killed, has changed from a civil war to a proxy fight among Mideast rivals. The Saudi-led war there turned three years old on Sunday.

"What we're hoping this does is make plausible deniability not very plausible," said Tim Michetti, head of regional operations for Conflict Armament Research. "You can't really deny this anymore once the components these things are made with are traced to Iranian distributors."

Michetti's organization, an independent watchdog group that receives funding from the United Arab Emirates, Germany and the European Union to research weaponry recovered in Yemen, said it examined a fake rock bomb in January near Mokha, some 250 kilometers (150 miles) southwest of the capital, Sanaa.

The fiberglass-encased bomb, packed with explosives, could be armed by radio and triggered by an infrared beam, the group said. It said there were three varieties, including anti-personnel mines and so-called explosively formed projectiles, which can penetrate armored vehicles and were used with lethal effect against U.S. troops following the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Electrical circuitry in the bombs mirrored those manufactured by militants in Bahrain, while the bombs bore markings suggesting one workshop mass-produced the explosives, the report said. Such bombs, however, have yet to be used in Bahrain, an island kingdom off Saudi Arabia in the midst of a crackdown on all dissent.

Investigators also found a type of Chinese-manufactured wire covering used in other Iranian materiel, the report said.

It said independent experts also examined the explosives. Those experts said that "construction indicates that the bomb maker had a degree of knowledge in constructing devices that resembled, and possibly functioned in a manner similar to (explosively formed projectile bombs) that have been forensically tied to Iran and Hezbollah," the report said.

Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman for Iran's mission to the United Nations, dismissed the report, saying the Houthis had no need for such weapons as they control stockpiles of arms purchased under former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The Houthis killed Saleh, their one-time ally, in December.

"President Saleh was the sweetheart of America and Saudi Arabia," Miryousefi told The Associated Press. "It seems petro-dollars are promoting such reports in order to rationalize war crimes in Yemen as well as the oppression of Bahrain's completely civil and popular protests."

Told of the Iranian response, Michetti invited officials from Tehran to take part in his organization's research in the future.

This is not the first time Iran has been accused of arming the Houthis.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, has repeatedly said Iran sends arms into Yemen. It points to seizures over a four-week period in early 2016, when coalition warships stopped three dhows, traditional ships that ferry cargo in the Persian Gulf. The dhows carried thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles as well as sniper rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-tank missiles and other weapons.

Russian shopping mall fire kills at least 48, report says

MOSCOW (AP)—A fire at a shopping mall in a Siberian city killed at least 48 people, Russian officials said Monday.

At least 16 people were still missing, state news agency Tass reported, citing Russian Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov.

The fire at the four-story Winter Cherry mall in Kemerovo was extinguished in the morning after burning through the night. Parts of the building were still smoldering and the floors of the cinema hall had caved in in places, another emergency official said.

"More bodies were discovered during the inspection of the scene and we confirm the death toll is at 48," Deputy Emergencies Minister Vladlen Aksyonov said, according to Tass.

The news agency had earlier reported that 11 of the bodies had been found in the mall's cinema. The shopping center opened in 2013 and also included a petting zoo, children's center and bowling.

Tass said the fire started on the top floor but the cause wasn't immediately known. A criminal investigation was begun.

The mall is about 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow.

Focus

Keeping refugee families apart, reuniting others next door

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Sitting in apartment complexes on opposite sides of town, the women—one a former shopkeeper from Somalia, the other a teacher from Bhutan—waited for children to come home.

Only the teacher, Devi Gurung, was rewarded for her patience.

On the landing outside an apartment decorated with Buddhist prayer flags, she watched as a school bus turned down the block and the niece she had not seen in four years, hopped to the curb.

"I am lucky," said Gurung, reunited with her sister's family just a few days earlier after spending more than half her life in a refugee camp.

The next morning, Amina Olow smiled, too, but faintly, as she recalled the daughters she has not seen in nearly a decade. Then she unfolded a letter from U.S. immigration officials, dated more than a year ago, that seemed to promise the two girls would join her soon. She's heard nothing since.

"My kids, they're a part of my body," Olow said, her voice breaking.

Olow and Gurung are both here, within 20 minutes of Ohio State University's football horseshoe, because the U.S. government has granted them safe haven. But that's where their stories diverge.

Starting early last year, the administration of President Donald Trump banned arrivals from several, mostly Muslim countries, cut the cap on refugee admissions and suspended a program to reunite families split in the resettlement pipeline.

For thousands of refugee families already building new lives in the U.S., the changes are playing out in decidedly unnerving and uneven ways. The restrictions have kept many families apart, while allowing some to reunite, sorting people by country, and effectively by religion.

When Somali refugee Fadumo Hussein and her daughters joined protesters at John Glenn Columbus International Airport last January to protest the administration's restrictions on arrivals, they did so for very personal reasons. Weeks before the ban was announced, Hussein's parents, who are 75 and 76, had been approved for entry to the U.S. Their arrival was scheduled for last February. More than a year later, they remain stuck in Uganda, their case on hold.

Watching Bhutanese neighbors welcome their own family members from a refugee camp in the months since, Hussein's been "happy for them because they were able to reunite," but also confused.

"What is different about us, like Somalis or the other countries that are being banned," her daughter, Afnan Salem, asked, "when we are all coming for the same reasons?

■■■

In the mid-1800s, Ohio's capital city became a stronghold of German immigrants, who settled in the red-brick blocks that now form a historic "village" just south of downtown.

But in recent years, Columbus has become a magnet for refugees from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. They're drawn by affordable rents, plentiful jobs in distribution centers that require little or no English - and, most importantly, family already here.

Low-rise apartment complexes on Columbus' north side have become the center of the largest U.S. population of Bhutanese refugees, most who are Buddhist or Hindu and were expelled during a government-led ethnic cleansing campaign against ethnic Nepalis in the early 1990s.

More than 20,000 Bhutanese now live alongside the country's second largest Somali refugee community—overwhelmingly Muslim, and from one of the countries whose arrivals have been most sharply reduced. They've been joined by a growing population of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, most of them Christian.

Today, shopping centers on or near Morse Road are speckled with Nepali groceries and African restaurants serving dishes with the staple cassava flour called fufu.

"Everybody has a dream that if I go, there will be a chance for my son to come or my mother to come," said Jhuma Acharya, who came to Columbus as a refugee from Bhutan and now works for Community Refugee & Immigration Services, or CRIS, one of the city's two resettlement agencies.

But for many, Trump's policies have shaken those expectations.

"There's certainly a pretty dramatic shift" in the mix and number of refugees being allowed in, said Kathleen Newland, a fellow at the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

AP

This photo provided by her daughter shows Fadumo Hussein, right, with her 75-year-old mother, Halima Shobe, during a trip to Africa in December 2017. Though the Trump administration's travel ban has made it difficult for refugees from Somalia to come to the U.S., Hussein is still hoping her parents, who have health problems, can eventually join her in Ohio one day.

The U.S. is on track to take in the smallest number of refugees since Congress passed a law in 1980 creating the modern resettlement system. At the current rate, the U.S. will take in about 21,000 refugees this fiscal year, well below the cap of 45,000 set by the administration and roughly a quarter those granted entry in the final year of Barack Obama's presidency.

The administration is also cutting the resettlement system itself, telling executives of nine private agencies they must close any office expected to place fewer than 100 refugees this year.

In citing security concerns to exclude refugees from certain countries, Newland said, the administration has skewed the ethnic and religious makeup of the much smaller number allowed entry. About 15 percent of refugees admitted to the U.S. this fiscal year are Muslim, down from 47 percent a year ago, federal figures show.

U.S. officials say there is no preference for refugees of one religion over another: "The United States is committed to assisting people of all religions, ethnicities, and nationalities who are fleeing persecution, violence, and other drivers of displacement," a State Department spokeswoman said in a written response to questions. The administration resumed the program to reunify refugee families in December, she said, responding to a judge's injunction.

Trump's policies have sharply cut refugee arrivals to many cities. In Toledo, for example, the resettlement agency US Together had taken in 180 Syrians since 2014. Since last July, though, there has not been a single new arrival from the country, program director Corine Dehabey said.

But renewed admissions of refugees from Bhutan and Congo, as well as from Ukraine, have made Columbus something of an anomaly, said Angie Plummer, executive director of CRIS.

Most Americans probably know little of either the tiny Himalayan kingdom or the country long known as Zaire. But Trump's policy has left them as the two largest contributors to the dwindling pool of new refugees, accounting for 45 percent of the 8,600 arrivals since October, government figures show.

"We are not Muslims that they would hate to bring here ... and we're not from any of the listed countries," said Sudarshan Pyakurel, who arrived as a refugee in 2010 and is now director of the Bhutanese Nepali Community of Columbus, a center offering English classes, wellness programs and walk-in assistance. "We don't fit in any of those boxes."

Authorities plan to close the camp housing Bhutanese this year, and relocate most of its last remaining inhabitants to the U.S. But early last year, "there was a rumor back in the refugee camp that America was not taking any more refugees," Devi Gurung said. The Trump's administration's freeze on new admissions left her worrying if she'd ever again see her older sister, Harka, who was resettled in Columbus with her husband and daughter in 2014.

That was until last month, when Gurung and her parents learned they had been approved for entry. By then, her father, Til Bahadur Gurung, 59, said he had long given up hope of returning to the land in southern Bhutan where he had farmed rice and millet. The only planes they'd ever seen were the ones that crossed the sky over the refugee camp.

But after 18 hours in the air, the elder Gurung exited the vessel he calls "the big tube." Eden, his 8-year-old granddaughter, was waiting to embrace him.

In recent months, far fewer Muslim families have experienced similar exaltation. In the first two months of this year, the U.S. accepted 49 refugees from Somalia, 19 from Iraq and five from Syria. That is down sharply from the 1,094 Somalis, 1,860 Iraqis and 1,991 Syrian refugees admitted in the first two months of 2017.

Just two years ago, CRIS assisted 15 to 30 new arrivals from Iraq, Iran, Syria and Afghanistan each month.

They included Alizabet Yandem and four of her children. In July 2016 they joined her husband, Rifat Moustafa, a lawyer who said he fled his native Syria after he was jailed and beaten with an electric cable for criticizing the Assad regime's record on human rights.

But their son, Hasib, remained in the Middle East after officials held up his petition. Moustafa suspected an objection to his son's malformed left arm and hand, which need surgery. But the family expected approval within months. Then the new administration took office, and the case stalled.

Officially, Trump's policies on refugees do not apply to Moustafa, who was granted political asylum after arrival in the U.S. But resettlement officials said they suspect the stepped up vetting and uncertainty under the new policies have caused widespread delays.

One recent afternoon, Moustafa chatted happily with his son via Facebook. But the father rushed out the door in sandals, ignoring the winter chill, as soon as the son began to sing of their five-year separation.

"I don't want him to see that I am crying," Moustafa said, lighting a Marlboro and wiping the back of a hand across his cheek. "I don't want to lose my child."

After years of working with many new arrivals, Firas Mousa, a former translator for the U.S. military in Iraq who works with refugees from the Middle East for CRIS, said he now has just a single active case. Those whose cases are stalled include his sister- and brother-in-law, who fled Iraq to Turkey in 2014. He said they were approved for refugee status by a UN surrogate agency in late 2016, but have heard nothing since.

"They said God will help us," Mousa said. "Logic tells me if Trump is president I can't expect any new refugees."

■■■

For those already here, the changes are playing out in what can seem haphazard ways.

A few minutes before midnight, Esta Ausa peered down the concourse of the Columbus airport, ignoring friends' teasing to relax and sit down. It had been 18 months since Ausa, 22, left her parents, brothers and sisters behind in a refugee camp in Tanzania to enter the U.S.

The family is among 675,000 Congolese the United Nations estimates have fled to neighboring countries, first to escape a brutal civil war and then renewed ethnic violence. After the U.S. put a temporary hold on new refugees last year, Ausa said, her parents' approval to enter the U.S. was canceled twice.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Ausa, her words translated by Eric Rusingiza, a CRIS caseworker.

"They thought it was the end of their family coming," Rusingiza said.

Then, the family's American dream came true.

See REFUGEE on Next Page

Overdrive

Auto review: 2018 Toyota Sequoia: What's old is not new

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TNS

The refreshed 2018 Toyota Sequoia is largely a technology update to the full-size three-row SUV last redesigned for 2008.

Toyota's full-size three-row SUV rumbles on, same as it was a decade ago with technology upgraded for the modern era that has the look and feel of something from the prior era. Such is Toyota.

Even though sales of the Sequoia are a fraction of what they were in its heyday in the early half of the millennium, demand remains constant for the Tundra-based SUV.

That old-school feel is welcome by a certain set dissuaded by all the doodads that turn the modern cabin into a carnival. No start/stop push-button on/off switches here: you get a stiff and unbending key, so you can stab your thigh or waist whenever you sit down. And the gear stick is in the console, notched and sturdy. And of course there is a CD player, to play any one of the many very best of the Eagles.

Crank that 5.7-liter V-8 engine and hear that fan roar over anyone talking. And that 11 mpg around town? Could be worse, could be the 1970s.

I get why consumers would opt for a stripped-down family hauler that acts as reliably as a truck. This is a long-haul ride, over space and time, at a reasonable price. And the piecemeal comfort and convenience options that abound in the competitors can feel like a whole lot of snake oil salesmanship. I get it.

What bothers me is how the new stuff is swapped for the old stuff without regard to form or function. What bothers me is the touch screen. The postcard-sized interface is smaller than the console cup holders, and the Entune infotainment system is still one of the worst on the market. Despite having large knobs for climate control and huge buttons on the steering wheel that can't be misapplied even with work gloves on, there's these tiny buttons that a bare pinky pad can't hit with any accuracy to get all the secondary vehicle info on the touch screen. And there is still no Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. Two of the five 12-volt outlets are up front, but USB ports are extra. And this is on the middle of the pack, leather-appointed Limited trim.

The cabin is loaded with hard plastic and free of any fancy flourishes, which also has a certain appeal to the truck-should-be-a-truck purists. Accessing the third row takes a strong kid or help from an adult, but getting out is easy. The third row can recline, and the second row bench seat enables eight total passengers.

A power liftgate with sliding window and power folding third-row seats make it easy to lug stuff other than people. Second row folds flat as well, for a flat floor cargo area. The 120 cubic feet of cargo volume — a foot shy of the class-leading Chevrolet Suburban — is above average for the class.

Under the hood is the same fuel-snarfing 381-horsepower V-8 engine. We averaged 13.6 mpg at 45 mph on our highway commutes, a far cry from the EPA-estimated 17 mpg highway. Around town, we were at a solid 11 mpg, also well short of the EPA-estimated 13 mpg city. Is it irony to name it for an endangered tree?

The old powertrain with the six-speed transmission is proven reliable in the Sequoia, Tundra and Land Cruiser, and feels like it will run without fault for another decade or three. The 401 pound-feet of torque enables towing up to 7,400 pounds, a capability shared by several midsize SUVs but exceeded by all other full-size SUVs.

Most of the upgrades for the decade-old refresh are standard advanced driver assistance systems, such as pedestrian detection and adaptive cruise control that can be used to a stop. There's a 4.2-inch instrument cluster display to toggle through very basic info, such as changing radio stations with the steering wheel controls. Anything more sophisticated, including checking fuel economy for one trip, involves the terribly tiny touch screen.

The standard safety features are nice, but not worth the upcharge over a lightly used old model Sequoia, if old is your thing.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Toyota Sequoia Limited at a glance

- Vehicle type: Full-size three-row SUV
- Base price: $60,020
- As tested: $61,605 (excluding $1,295 destination)
- Mpg: 13 city, 17 highway
- Engine: 5.7-liter V-8
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic in AWD
- Parting shot: There's newer, better, fresher.

UNDER THE HOOD

Making sense of scan tool readings

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Q: I took your advice and bought an inexpensive scan tool. It's been fun trying it out on several family cars, and I'm almost eagerly awaiting a problem so I can try to fix it! I'm curious about the "STFT" and "LTFT" percentage numbers — and what they represent. I've also noticed one car shows a reading for "MAP" and the other shows it as "MAF". What's the difference?

Wes L.

A: Cool stuff! STFT and LTFT are abbreviations for short-term fuel trim and long-term fuel trim. MAP and MAF are short for manifold absolute pressure and mass air flow (sensors).

Fuel trims provide an informative view of fuel/air delivery system happiness, reflecting the level of correction needed beyond the original fuel delivery mapping when abnormal conditions occur, to make the exhaust oxygen/air-fuel sensor happy once again (normal readings). Short-term fuel trim is a direct response to oxygen/air-fuel sensor readings and is typically expressed as either a positive (rich correction—adding fuel) percentage or a negative percentage (lean correction — subtracting fuel). The range of correction typically tops out at perhaps 25 percent to 30 percent positive or negative. Readings within plus or minus 5 percent of zero are considered normal. Multi-bank engines (V-6, other) may have trims for each bank of cylinders (STFT-1, STFT-2) as each cylinder bank has its own oxygen/air-fuel sensor. Long-term fuel trim(s) are a response to a continuous and presumed permanent short-term correction, allowing short-term trim to return back to a quick-on-its-feet neutral value. There will be a differing trim value for every speed/load, so it's best to observe fuel trims during a variety of driving conditions.

Let's say a vehicle has a dirty/moderately clogged fuel filter. It may run OK at low speed/low load as fuel flow through the injectors is minimal, but it may lose power at high speed/load when flow is high. As the engine struggles at high speed/load, the exhaust oxygen/air-fuel sensor(s) will indicate a lean mixture (not enough fuel) and the PCM (powertrain control module) will call for a short-term correction, a positive number perhaps in double digits to fix it. If the fault has been learned via repeated episodes and isn't severe, it might show up mostly in the long-term trim(s). If the filter was really clogged and the long-term trim is topped-out, short-term trim will also help with the fault (both are positive percentages in this case).

Other examples include negative percentage trim(s) (fuel subtracted) due to a dirty air filter during high airflow conditions, or perhaps positive trim(s) only at idle, due to a manifold vacuum leak. On vehicles equipped with a MAF sensor, improperly measured air, due to a leaking hose connection or dirty sensor would result in a positive fuel trim correction due to the skewed original fuel mapping. MAF sensors are typically a cartridge in the large/black intake duct between the air filter and engine throttle and measure the mass/quantity of air entering the engine. Smaller, lower-tech engines may use a MAP sensor instead, which measures engine vacuum, an excellent load indicator. The PCM crunches the MAP reading, along with other sensor values to infer intake airflow.

Given time, your scan tool will likely pay for itself many times over. Enjoy!

REFUGEE

From Page 17

Ausa spotted a group of bewildered arrivals - their brand new red-yellow-and-blue winter jackets standing out in the brightly lit and nearly empty terminal.

"Mama?" she said. Then she danced toward the security perimeter, enfolding her mother, Mwavita Maulidi, in her arms.

"I thank God for everything," said her father, Ausa Emedi, 46. In coming days, one of the first tasks would be seeking out a doctor who can ensure his treatment for epilepsy. But that would have to wait.

At 1:30 a.m., Emedi hauled bags into a bare two-bedroom apartment, paid for with aid the U.S. provides to covers refugees' expenses during their first 90 days. One of his daughters, Machozi, 16, walked from room to room, opening closet and cabinet doors. Then they stood wide-eyed as the case worker demonstrated the workings of a flush toilet—like none they had ever seen before.

"They want to learn everything on the same day and it really can't happen," Rusingiza said. "It will take time."

As the Ausas woke for their first morning in America, Olow, the Somali refugee, took a break from work to tell a decidedly different story.

When Olow last saw her daughters, 13-year-old Neemotallah and 10-year-old Nastexo, they were babies.

At the time, she was running a food shop in South Africa. After rioters attacked foreigners across that country in 2008 and looted her store, she took her daughters to live with their aunt in Kenya, and tried unsuccessfully to salvage her business. She was admitted to the U.S. in 2014.

U.S. officials eventually accepted DNA tests proving her kinship with the girls, said Olow, who now works in an apartment leasing office, the only staffer in a hijab. She unfolded the letter to her husband, a truck driver, from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, approving her older daughter's petition and dated last March.

"We are a family. We have a right to be together," she said. "And the president should have empathy for families that have been dislocated, just like mine. We need one another."

As Olow walked back through the desks, site manager Janet Siford noticed her tears.

"Amina, I'm sorry," said Siford, herself the mother of four. "We got you, we got you. One day at a time, OK?"

She leaned over, wrapping her arms around Olow and cradling the refugee's scarfed head on her shoulder.

"We're like sisters," Siford said. "We hug. We laugh. We cry."

Life & Style

Porn star says she was warned to keep silent about Trump

By KEN THOMAS and KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adult film star Stormy Daniels says she was threatened to keep silent about an alleged sexual encounter with Donald Trump in 2006, telling her story in a highly anticipated interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" broadcast Sunday.

Daniels said she was threatened by an unidentified man in Las Vegas to keep quiet about her alleged relationship with Trump, an incident that she said happened while she was with her young daughter. She said in the interview that she had one encounter of consensual sex with the future president.

"He knows I'm telling the truth," said Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford. She does not allege that she was coerced in her encounter with Trump, saying, "This is not a 'Me too.' I was not a victim."

The adult film actress provided little new evidence of her alleged 2006 affair with Trump but said she faced intimidation tactics aimed at ensuring her silence in 2011.

Daniels said that in the incident, in a parking lot, the man told her: "Leave Trump alone. Forget the story." She said he then looked at her daughter and said, "That's a beautiful little girl. It'd be a shame if something happened to her mom."

Daniels received a $130,000 payment days before the 2016 presidential election for her silence and has sought to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement.

The White House did not immediately comment Sunday on the interview. Trump, through his representatives, has denied the allegations. His attorney, Michael Cohen, has said Trump never had an affair with Daniels. Cohen has said he paid the $130,000 out of his pocket.

Cohen has said neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Daniels and he was not reimbursed for the payment.

However, Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti told "60 Minutes" he has documents showing Cohen using his Trump Organization email address in setting up the payment and that the nondisclosure agreement was sent by FedEx to Cohen at his Trump Organization office in Trump Tower.

In the interview, Daniels described a sexual encounter with Trump that began with him talking about himself and showing her an issue of a magazine with his picture on the cover. She said she asked, "Does this ... does this normally work for you?" He was taken aback, she says. "And I was like, 'Someone should take that magazine and spank you with it.'" She says she then ordered him to drop his pants and, in a playful manner, "I just gave him a couple swats."

She said they talked some more, although he quit talking about himself, and that she became more comfortable.

"He was like, 'Wow, you—you are special. You remind me of my daughter.' You know—he was like, 'You're smart and beautiful, and a woman to be reckoned with, and I like you. I like you.'"

She said after dinner in Trump's room, they had sex. He didn't use a condom, she said, and she didn't ask him to. Afterward, he asked to see her again, she said.

Daniels said that before they had sex Trump had broached the idea of her being a contestant on "The Apprentice," and she likened it to a "business opportunity." She said he called her several times and would ask if they could get together again and that he had an update for her. She said she felt that he was holding out the opportunity to keep her coming back.

"Of course. I mean, I'm not blind. But at the same time, maybe it'll work out, you know?" Daniels said.

In July 2007, a year after they had met, Daniels said Trump asked to meet with her privately at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles. She said they did not have sex, but he wanted to.

Daniels reported that Trump called her the following month to say he had not been able to get her a spot on his TV show. She said they never met again.

Daniels was asked why she's talking now: "Because it was very important to me to be able to defend myself," she said.

Daniels said she was fine saying nothing at all. "But I'm not OK with being made out to be a liar, or people thinking that I did this for money and people are like, 'Oh, you're an opportunist. You're taking advantage of this.' Yes, I'm getting more job offers now, but tell me one person who would turn down a job offer making more than they've been making, doing the same thing that they've always done?"

"60 Minutes" correspondent Anderson Cooper noted during the interview that Melania Trump had recently given birth just a few months before. "Did he mention his wife or child at all in this?" Cooper said. "

Former Fox News anchor sues O'Reilly

NEW YORK (AP)—A former Fox News anchor filed a defamation lawsuit on Thursday over comments by Bill O'Reilly it says were meant to damage the reputations of women who have accused him of harassment.

The suit by Laurie Dhue in federal court in Manhattan accuses O'Reilly of engaging in a "smear campaign" against his accusers after the former prime-time star or Fox settled their claims for millions of dollars. At least three other women have filed similar suits.

"As part of his desperate campaign to clear his name, O'Reilly published false statements about Dhue . calling her a liar, swearing that her allegations were fabricated in an effort to obtain a settlement," according to the suit, which seeks unspecified damages. It also accuses him of "falsely asserting that her purported claims against O'Reilly were politically motivated."

Fox ousted O'Reilly last year after The New York Times reported that at least five women with professional ties to him had received payouts totaling $13 million to settle claims of sexual harassment and other misbehavior. The newspaper said Dhue received $1 million.

There was no immediate response on Thursday to a request for comment from one of O'Reilly's lawyers. In court papers filed earlier this week in the suits brought by the three other women, his lawyers called the defamation claims "frivolous and wholly unsupported in law or fact."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†MARTHA CABRERA SANTOS

Born to Life: March 07, 1935
Called to Eternal life: March 21, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

HUSBAND: †Alfred Fredrika Santos
PARENTS: †Jose Palacios Cabrera (Tamat)
†Maria Mendiola Cabrera (Damoá)
SON: †Kenneth C. Santos
DAUGHTERS: †Gezena Ann C. Santos
†Erlinse C. Santos
BROTHERS/SISTERS AND SPOUSES:
†Roberto M. and †Vicenta C. Tudela
†Francisca T. and †Pedro A. Borja
†Celia C. and Antonio D. Reyes
†Gabriel M. and †Rosa P. Cabrera
†Ramona C. and †Manuel S. Sablan
†Rosario C. and †Jose SN. Attao
†Francisco T. and †Rosa C. Torres
†Vicente M. and †Maria DLC. Cabrera
†Jesus Hocog
†Maria M. Cabrera
†Probio M. Cabrera
†Emilio M. Cabrera
BROTHER IN LAW: †George L. Teregeyo

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

SISTER: Vicenta Cabrera Teregeyo
SONS AND DAUGHTER IN LAW:
Alfred C. Santos [Erlinse Mae, Alfred III, Keith]
Joseph C. and Carolyn Santos [Laina, Angelina, Maria, Eva]
Monique Santos [Magdelis & Michael Gloudeman {Maxent Kenneth Jeffrey}, Cecilia, Geoffrey]
GRANDCHILDREN: Gezina C. Santos [Martha, Alvin, Leon]
Branson Jay and Diosalyn Santos {Daejah, Branson Jr. Lilia]
SISTER IN LAW: Trinidad DLC. Cabrera
Maria F. Hocog
Dedicated caregiver: Beatriz "Pat" B. Flores / Dedicated helper: Cristina Taruc

She will also be greatly missed by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

		MASS	ROSARY
3/27/2018	Tuesday	San Vicente 6:00 pm	San Vicente, 6:30 pm
3/28/2018	Wednesday	No Mass	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon
3/29/2018	Thursday	No Mass	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon
3/30/2018	Friday	No Mass	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon
3/31/2018	Saturday	No Mass	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon
4/01/2018	Sunday	San Vicente 9:00 am	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon
4/02/2018	Monday	No Mass	San Pedro Chapel, 12:00 noon

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, April 03, 2018. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso service will be at 8 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated by the family.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Bai, Joe and The Family

'Pacific Rim: Uprising' dethrones 'Black Panther'

NEW YORK (AP)—It took six weeks but "Black Panther" has finally been unseated as the top film at the North American box office. The monsters vs. robots science-fiction sequel "Pacific Rim: Uprising" dethroned the superhero sensation with $28 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

But the result for "Pacific Rim: Uprising," a Universal Pictures-Legendary Entertainment release that cost $150 million to make, was soft—at least domestically. Like the recently released "Tomb Raider," its biggest business was in China. "Pacific Rim: Uprising" debuted there with $65 million for Legendary, which the Chinese conglomerate Wanda Group acquired in 2016.

And even though "Black Panther" slid to second place with $16.7 million in its sixth weekend, Ryan Coogler's film notched another box-office milestone. It's now the highest-grossing superhero film ever in North America, not accounting for inflation. The film's $631 million in domestic ticket sales has surpassed the $623 million of 2012's "The Avengers." ''Black Panther" also becomes the fifth highest grossing film of all-time, rising above "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

Yet the record-breaking hit of "Black Panther" has been followed by a string of lackluster performers, including "Tomb Raider," ''A Wrinkle in Time" and "Red Sparrow." ''Pacific Rim: Uprising" may have taken down the champ, but a blockbuster heir to "Black Panther" is yet to be found. Next weekend, Steven Spielberg will try with his big-budget virtual-reality spectacle "Ready Player One."

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows a scene from "Pacific Rim Uprising."

Hollywood has essentially already squandered the early lead "Black Panther" gave it. Despite the firepower of "Black Panther," the year is running 2.6 percent behind 2017 at U.S and Canada theaters, according to comScore. This weekend was down 36.5 percent from last year when "Beauty and the Beast" was in its second week and the surprisingly successful "Power Rangers" debuted.

"One movie isn't enough to support a whole marketplace," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "We need a real shot in the arm here. 'Pacific Rim,' that's a fine opening. But we need bigger numbers to be put up."

"Pacific Rim: Uprising" could point to better results abroad, where it grossed $122.5 million over the weekend. The July 2013 original, directed by Guillermo del Toro, was likewise conceived as an East-West hybrid tailored after classic kaiju movies, the Japanese giant monster genre. It launched with $37.3 million domestically and $45 million in China.

The $411 million worldwide haul for del Toro's film was enough to prompt a sequel, even if enthusiasm for a second installment was considerably higher in Asia. Steven S. DeKnight co-wrote and directed "Uprising," which critics largely slammed. It scored a 46 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

"The domestic market was a very important part of it and we really came in above any reasonable expectations," said Jim Orr, domestic distribution chief for Universal. "This was always engineered to be a worldwide event film."

The strategy was similar for Warner Bros.' "Tomb Raider" reboot, starring Alicia Vikander. Domestically, it dropped steeply in its second week, sliding 56 percent with $10.4 million. Sales have been brisker overseas, where "Tomb Raider" has grossed $170 million thus far.

MGM and Paramount Pictures' animated family sequel "Sherlock Gnomes" disappointed with a $10.6 million debut. Forecasts had been higher for the sequel to "Gnomeo & Juliet," which grossed $194 million worldwide in 2011.

The results were also modest for Steven Soderbergh's "Unsane," a psychological thriller starring Claire Foy ("The Crown") that the director shot with iPhones. The Bleecker Street-Fingerprint Releasing film opened with $3.9 million in 2,023 theaters. Though both were inexpensively made, neither of Soderbergh's first two films following his brief retirement from Hollywood has made much of a dent at the box office. Last year's "Logan Lucky," starring Channing Tatum, tapped out at $27.8 million domestically.

But there were also bright spots. The Christian drama "I Can Only Imagine" held especially strongly in its second weekend. The Lionsgate-Roadside Attractions release grossed $13.8 million, bringing its two-week total to $38.5 million. "I Can Only Imagine" has emerged as the clear faith-based film of choice ahead of Easter, likely to the detriment of "Paul: Apostle of Christ," which took in $5 million this weekend for Sony's Affirm Films.

And in limited release, Wes Anderson's stop-motion animated "Isle of Dogs" got off to a healthy start with $1.6 million in 27 theaters. Fox Searchlight, coming off its best-picture win at the Academy Awards for "The Shape of Water," carefully selected the opening-weekend theaters to cater to Anderson's die-hard fans.

"We just wanted to be out there to give his audience an opportunity to find the film," said Frank Rodriguez, distribution head for Searchlight.

Anderson is coming off the biggest box-office hit of his career. "The Grand Budapest Hotel" grossed $175 million worldwide in 2014. "Isle of Dogs," about a Japanese island of misfit canines in a future dystopia, has been received with nearly equal fanfare. Critics gave it a 93 percent fresh Rotten Tomatoes score, audiences gave it an "A" CinemaScore and Searchlight noted its opening-weekend audience was more than 60 percent under the age of 30. But it has also sparked questions of cultural appropriation .

"I don't know how that's going to affect most of the audience," said Rodriguez. "We know that audiences want to see it. We can hope that people make their own decisions and hopefully look at the film as an homage to a great culture and great filmmakers. It's pretty much Wes."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Pacific Rim: Uprising**," $28 million ($122.5 million international).
2. "**Black Panther**," $16.7 million ($12.9 million international).
3. "**I Can Only Imagine**," $13.8 million.
4. "**Sherlock Gnomes**," $10.6 million.
5. "**Tomb Raider**," $10.4 million.
6. "**A Wrinkle in Time**," $8 million.
7. "**Love, Simon**," $7.8 million.
8. "**Paul, Apostle of Christ**," $5 million.
9. "**Game Night**," $4.2 million.
10. "**Midnight Sun**," $4.1 million.

Trump turns to Fox News as he casts staffers for West Wing

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's favorite TV network is increasingly serving as a West Wing casting call, as the president reshapes his administration with camera-ready personalities.

Trump's new national security adviser, John Bolton, is a former U.N. ambassador, a White House veteran—and perhaps most importantly a Fox News channel talking head. Bolton's appointment, rushed out late Thursday, follows Trump's recent attempt to recruit Fox guest Joseph diGenova for his legal team.

Bolton went on Fox to discuss his selection and said it had happened so quickly that "I think I'm still a Fox News contributor."

Another recent TV-land addition to the Trump White House is veteran CNBC contributor Larry Kudlow as top economic adviser. Other Fox faces on Trump's team: rising State Department star Heather Nauert, a former Fox News anchor; communications adviser Mercedes Schlapp and Treasury Department spokesman Tony Sayegh. The latter two are both former Fox commentators.

"He's looking for people who are ready to be part of that television White House," said Kendall Phillips, a communication and rhetorical studies professor at Syracuse University. "This is the Fox television presidency all the way up and down."

DiGenova, who has accused FBI officials of trying to "frame" Trump for nonexistent crimes, will not be joining the legal team because of "conflicts," said Trump counsel Jay Sekulow on Sunday. Sekulow, however, said diGenova and his wife, attorney Victoria Toensing, also a frequent commentator on Fox, would not be prevented from helping Trump "in other legal matters."

Trump's affinity for Fox News is by now well-documented. He has bestowed more interviews on the network than any other news outlet and is an avid viewer. People close to the president say he thinks Fox provides the best coverage of his untraditional presidency. It also provides him a window into conservative thinking, with commentary from Republican lawmakers and right-wing thinkers—many of who are speaking directly to the audience in the Oval Office.

On-air personalities Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham are favorites of the president, who also speaks to them privately. This past week Trump promoted Hannity on Twitter, saying: "@seanhannity on @foxandfriends now! Great! 8:18 A.M."

The president's early-morning tweets often appear to be reaction to Fox programming. On Friday, for example, Trump tweeted he was "considering" a veto of a massive spending bill needed to keep the government open not long after it was assailed on "Fox and Friends" as a "swamp budget."

The critic in question was contributor Pete Hegseth, a favorite of the president who has been rumored to be a possible replacement for embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin.

Fox News came in for criticism this past week from CNN chief Jeff Zucker, who on Thursday attacked the rival network by saying it has become a propaganda machine that is "doing an incredible disservice to the country."

Zucker spoke at the Financial Times Future of News conference two days after a former Fox military analyst quit, claiming he was ashamed at the way the network's opinion hosts were backing Trump. Zucker said that analyst, Ralph Peters, voiced what a lot of people have been thinking about Fox in the post-Roger Ailes era.

Still, in Trump's Washington, lawmakers and influence-seekers know that the best way to get in Trump's ear is often to get on Fox. Legislators routinely seek to get airtime when they are trying to push legislation or policy ideas, said congressional aides who sought anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private thinking.

"A year ago, everyone was trying to figure out how to get into the building; now everyone is trying to figure out how to get on TV," said Republican consultant Alex Conant.

This past week, for example, conservative lawmakers unhappy with the spending bill moving through Congress took to Fox. "This may be the worst bill I have seen in my time in Congress," said Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, on Wednesday.

And when the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, prompted a national conversation on gun laws, Fox contributor Geraldo Rivera used his platform to urge the president to support raising the age requirement to buy assault-type weapons.

"You've gotta let me give my pitch," he said on "Fox and Friends" several weeks ago, noting that he would see Trump that night. "Here in Florida and most states a kid cannot buy a beer ... and yet he could buy an AR-15 legally."

The hosts quickly pushed back. "Tell him to let the teachers carry concealed," said one.

While the coverage varies by show, "Fox and Friends" tends to be Trump-friendly, with the chipper morning show spotlighting his achievements and bashing the "mainstream media." On Friday, they featured a teen from the Florida high school where the shooting occurred who opposes gun control efforts, as well as a young conservative activist who interviewed Trump at a White House event the day before.

Also appearing Friday was White House counselor Kellyanne Conway—herself a constant presence on cable news—who pushed back at the idea Trump was focused on hiring TV personalities.

"The irony is not lost on me that you have a lot of quote 'TV stars' calling Larry Kudlow and John Bolton 'TV stars,'" Conway said.

No laughing matter: When exactly did clowns become scary?

By MARK KENNEDY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—His nose was round and bright red, his face as white as a sheet. His mouth was surrounded by an exaggerated smear of red makeup and his arched eyebrows hung ridiculously high on his forehead.

Such was the daily uniform of Bozo the Clown, who entertained kids for decades when TV was in its infancy. It's also a uniform that for many now seems grotesque and sinister.

AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard as the evil clown Pennywise in a scene from the film "It," based on the book by Stephen King.

The death of longtime Bozo performer Frank Avruch this week triggered both feelings—warm memories from some and a shiver of fear from others who associate clowns more with the film "It."

Which begs the question: When exactly did clowns go from birthday-party goofy to downright sinister? Well, hold onto your really big shoes—experts are divided.

David Carlyon, author, playwright and a former clown with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in the 1970s, argues that the fear of clowns—known officially as coulrophobia—is a relatively new phenomenon, born from the counter-culture 1960s and emerging as a popular force in the 1980s.

"There is no ancient fear of clowns," he said. "It wasn't like there was this panic rippling through Madison Square Garden as I walked up through the seats. Not at all."

Carlyon said clowns were considered sweet and funny for two centuries until an inevitable backlash that included Stephen King's hit novel "It," the film "Poltergeist," Heath Ledger's white-faced maniac Joker, the misanthrope Krusty the Clown from "The Simpsons," the shock band Insane Clown Posse and Homey D. Clown from "In Living Color."

"Anything that gets that much glorification and is sentimentalized within an inch of its life invites someone to snark at it," said Carlyon, who recently discovered the cover of a National Lampoon from 1979 with a girl cowering in fear of a malevolent clown.

"There's nothing in any available evidence that kids were afraid of clowns in the '40s, the '50s, the '60s, the '70s," he said. "Who said that about Red Skelton?"

Not so fast, argues Benjamin Radford, an author and editor at Skeptical Inquirer magazine who literally wrote the book on the subject, 2016's "Bad Clowns." Not to throw a pie in anyone's face, but he argues that evil clowns have always been among us.

"It's a mistake to ask when clowns turned bad because historically they were never really good. They've always had this deeply ambiguous character," he said.

"Sometimes they're good; sometimes they're bad. Sometimes they're making you laugh. Other times, they're laughing at your expense."

Stars affected by violence join students' gun-reform rallies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul McCartney, Common, Miley Cyrus, Amy Schumer and other stars played supporting roles at nationwide gun-reform rallies dominated by teenage survivors' emotional speeches.

Still, the protests were deeply personal for some of the celebrities involved.

Jennifer Hudson, who performed "The Times They Are A Changin'" to cap Saturday's March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C., alluded to the shooting deaths of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in 2008.

"We've all lost somebody. ... We've all got a purpose. And we want what? We want change," she said, encouraging the vast crowd to join her in song.

McCartney said his decision to take part in the New York City rally was prompted by the 1980 Manhattan shooting death of John Lennon, his former Beatles bandmate.

"One of my best friends was killed in gun violence, right 'round here, so it's important to me," he told CNN.

Asked what he hoped could be accomplished by the event, McCartney opened his jacket to show the slogan emblazoned on his black T-shirt: "We can end gun violence."

Hudson, appearing tearful as she concluded her appearance, was backed by members of a Washington choir and survivors of the Feb. 14 Parkland, Florida, high school shooting. Students from the school led rallies attended by hundreds of thousands of people in the nation's capital and other U.S. cities.

Celebrities attending the Washington event included power couples George and Amal Clooney and Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg, who helped fund the protests with a combined $1 million donation. Also attending were Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, Glenn Close, Cher, Jimmy Fallon and Dennis Rodman.

Common, Cyrus, Andra Day, Vic Mensa, Demi Lovato, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Ben Platt and Ariana Grande performed in Washington, and Rita Ora took the stage in Los Angeles.

"This song is dedicated to Stephon Clark, Decynthia Clements and all the unarmed black men and women killed by police weapons," Mensa said before performing "Now We Could Be Free."

Grande encountered another iteration of violence when her 2017 Manchester, England, concert was bombed, killing 22 people and injuring scores of others.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Queen Latifah's mom, Rita Owens, has died

NEW YORK (AP) — Queen Latifah is mourning the death of her mother. In a statement, the singer and actress says Rita Owens died Wednesday after struggling with a heart condition for many years. The statement did not given her mother's age or say where the death occurred. She was diagnosed with heart trouble in 2004. Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, says her mom was "the love of my life." She described her mother as gentle, strong, sweet and sassy. There was no immediate word on funeral arrangements.

Beatles' never-seen photos auctioned

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds of previously unseen photographs of The Beatles' first U.S. concerts have sold for 253,000 pounds ($358,000) at an auction in England. The photographer Mike Mitchell, who was 18 at the time, snapped the photos of the band's performances at the Washington Coliseum and the Baltimore Civic Centre in 1964. He also took photos of the Fab Four at a pre-show press conference and their arrival at Union Station. A total of some 400 negatives with copyright were sold at Omega Auctions on Saturday in northwestern England. Apart from 46 images that were sold in 2011, the remainder has never been seen. A 1984 black Mercedes once owned by George Harrison also sold for 43,200 pounds ($61,047) at the same auction.

Only child senses time has come to leave widowed mom

DEAR ABBY: I am an only child who has lived at home all her life—44 years. My father recently passed away, so now it is just Mom and me. She has become extremely clingy. She is jealous of my friends and feels I must be with her for almost everything. What can I do?

I think I should move out, but she will take it badly. Also, I'm concerned about her health. She's 71, diabetic and has a heart condition. Is this a lost cause or is there hope?

HOPING IN FLORIDA

DEAR HOPING: I agree that you should move. It would have been better had you cut the umbilical cord while your father was still alive, but better late than never.

Are there relatives or friends who can look in on your mother regularly? If there are, enlist their help. She should not be allowed to become isolated and solely dependent on one person. Look into grief support groups and other programs for seniors in your community.

If your mother needs a companion and your family finances allow it, hire someone to stay with her. It's time you had a life of your own. Consider it the price of your freedom.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, one of my best friends was dumped by his long-term boyfriend. I was shocked because everyone thought they were an ideal couple, and theirs was a relationship to model all of ours after.

A few days ago, my friend finally felt comfortable enough to confide that his ex had cheated on him with another friend of ours, which was another shock. Since then, I have been conflicted about how to act around the ex, whom I considered to be a good friend until this happened. I am tempted to lash out at him for hurting someone we care about, but I don't want to add more drama.

We all are in undergrad together, so we see each other every day. It's getting harder not to stick up for my friend at this point. How do I suppress my anger in order to be a friend to both of them, even if the ex may not deserve it?

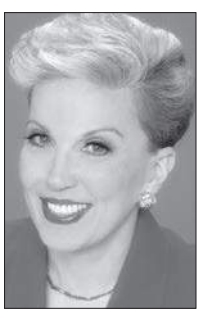
ANGRY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ANGRY: A way to do that would be to remind yourself that there are usually two sides to a story. Bide your time and wait to see what happens. Whether you want to remain friends with the "cad" will become apparent with time. Remaining quiet may be the better choice, particularly if the "ideal couple" decides to reunite.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 60-year-old widow who wants to begin dating. I have some health problems, although they are neither fatal nor limit my energy. I have excellent insurance and the monetary resources for the needed treatment.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I'm concerned that these conditions might scare off any suitors. How upfront must I be about them? I don't intend to lie, but must I give an extensive medical disclosure on the first few dates?

WANTS TO BE UPFRONT

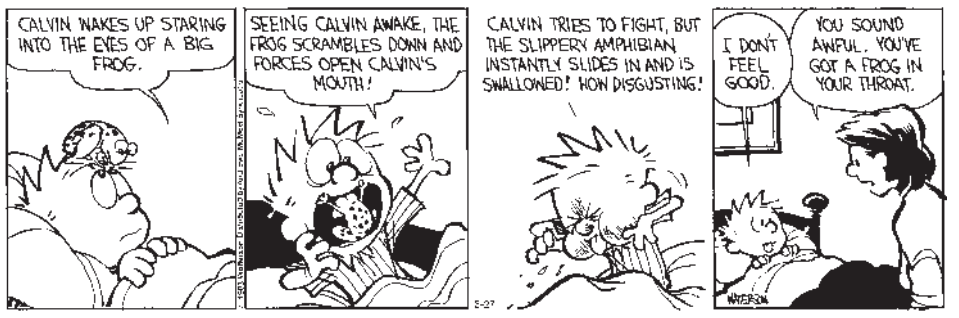
DEAR WANTS: I don't think your first conversations should include an "organ recital." However, if a relationship appears to be blossoming into something more than social, the honest thing to do would be to disclose.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN WAKES UP STARING INTO THE EYES OF A BIG FROG.
SEEING CALVIN AWAKE, THE FROG SCRAMBLES DOWN AND FORCES OPEN CALVIN'S MOUTH!
CALVIN TRIES TO FIGHT, BUT THE SLIPPERY AMPHIBIAN INSTANTLY SLIDES IN AND IS SWALLOWED! HOW DISGUSTING!
I DON'T FEEL GOOD.
YOU SOUND AWFUL. YOU'VE GOT A FROG IN YOUR THROAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MOVING MY DESK.
I NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE. A NEW OUTLOOK.
SCOOTCH
I'M GONNA SIT OVER HERE AND FACE THE WINDOW.
SOUNDS THRILLING.
RIGHT?? MAYBE WE SHOULD FILM MY FIRST SIT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

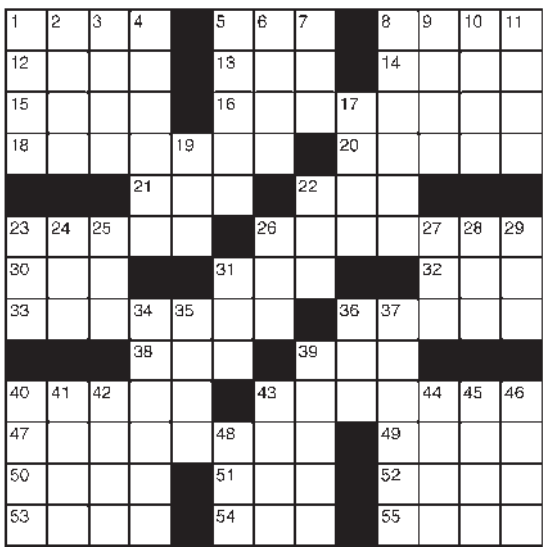
ACROSS
1 Historic times
5 Prohibit
8 Reunion attendee
12 Shoe style
13 Lincoln nickname
14 Poi base
15 "Let —" (Beatles hit)
16 All set
18 The Windy City
20 Relaxed
21 Jay follower
22 "Scandal" network
23 Tether
26 Moving from place to place
30 "Exodus" hero
31 Chopping tool
32 Actor Gibson
33 Hitchcock thriller
36 Romanced
38 Guitar's kin
39 "— who?"
40 Foolish
43 Trade ban
47 Spanish dance
49 Leeway
50 Cicatrix
51 Literary rep
52 Hawaiian coffee
53 Gymnast Korbut
54 "The Raven" writer
55 British gun

DOWN
1 Grand tale
2 Babe of baseball
3 Both (Pref.)
4 Dust particles
5 Hardly snug
6 "Peek-—!"
7 Opposite of paleo-
8 Tack on
9 Cambodia neighbor
10 Desire
11 Disposition
17 Arrears
19 Satisfied sigh
22 Chemical suffix
23 Restroom, for short
24 Before
25 Balloon filler
26 Tic-tac-toe loser
27 Punk-rock subgenre
28 "My word!"
29 Vintage
31 Candle count
34 Arctic plain
35 Furniture brand
36 Spider's creation
37 Arkansas range
39 Struck, old-style
40 In that case
41 Salt formula
42 Scrambled wd.
43 Waffle brand
44 Source
45 Depleted
46 Muscat's land
48 Snooze

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	C	O	N		L	A	D		U	C	L	A
C	O	R	E		O	R	A		N	O	O	N
E	W	E	R		O	F	F	C	U	A	R	D
S	L	O	V	A	K		T	A	S	T	E	S
			E	V	E	S		P	E	R		
O	F	F	S	I	D	E	S		D	O	N	E
L	O	A		S	T	R	O	P		O	A	T
D	E	N	S		O	F	F	E	R	A	M	P	S
			C	P	A		S	A	A	B		
G	A		E	T	Y		B	Y	R	O	A	D
O	F	F	W	H	I	T	E		A	X	L	E
T	R	U	E		P	A	D		D	E	L	E
H	O	L	D		S	O	S		E	N		D

Yesterday's answer 3-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fergie, 43; Nathan Fillion, 47; Mariah Carey, 48; Pauley Perrette, 49.

Happy Birthday: Turn this into a social year. Accept invitations and plan to engage in stimulating conversations that will help you make important decisions about what you want to do next. Whether dealing with personal or professional matters, bringing about positive change that will boost your attitude and help you follow your dreams should be at the top of your to-do list. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 29, 32, 35, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Network and spend time with people who can offer good advice, but don't buy into someone else's plan. If you are going to invest in anyone, it should be in you. Gather information and prepare to do your own thing. Embrace change. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Personal change can be made, but don't display what you are trying to pursue. It's best to get things up and running to your satisfaction before you share with others. Keep your secrets hidden from anyone likely to make a fuss. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can improve your personal life with a little effort and a couple of changes. Reach out to someone you think can help you make adjustments to your lifestyle, and you will develop a relationship that brings you both good fortune. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your voice down and your opinions to yourself. Getting into an argument with someone can ruin your relationship. Concentrate on doing a good job and taking care of your responsibilities with finesse and a positive attitude. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get involved, make plans and accelerate to reach the destination that beckons you. Make the most of your attributes. Create alterations that will excite you and prompt you to move forward with anticipation, but don't go over budget. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* The changes going on around you should be carefully viewed before you decide whether to walk away or to participate. Consider who is involved and what everyone else has to contribute before making a commitment. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Address responsibilities and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Get involved in projects or events that allow you to use your creativity and intelligence. Working in partnership with others will be a confidence booster that leads to an interesting proposal. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Veer toward a simpler lifestyle. Be reluctant to engage in something that is indulgent or that will take you out of your financial comfort zone. Personal change should start within and encourage you to be the best you can be. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get moving. Business trips and networking will be educational and give you insight into what's possible. Don't overreact if something doesn't go your way; look for an alternative route. Self-improvement and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stay on top of technology and new trends. Reinvent something you used to enjoy doing. Don't sweat the little things or those who annoy you. Keeping a clear head and staying focused on what you do best are favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay focused on money, how you handle it and how you earn your income. You can make some alterations to your lifestyle if you consider a partnership with someone trying to reach similar goals. A joint venture looks promising. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Listen and think matters through to the end, especially when dealing with your colleagues or a superior. Knowing what's expected of you will help you deliver and receive the rewards you deserve. Don't limit your chance to get ahead. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, intelligent and loving. You are generous and inspirational.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	3				
	1				6		5	
		8	9			3		
	9		8		1	5		6
6								8
4		7	5		2		1	
		9			4	2		
	6		2				7	
				5	7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	4	6	5	7	9	3	8
6	3	8	9	1	4	2	5	7
9	5	7	8	3	2	6	1	4
7	6	1	2	4	8	3	9	5
8	9	5	3	6	1	7	4	2
2	4	3	7	9	5	1	8	6
3	8	6	5	7	9	4	2	1
5	1	9	4	2	6	8	7	3
4	7	2	1	8	3	5	6	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BONOBOS Solution: 11 letters

K	D	I	M	I	T	R	O	T	S	E	C	N	A	E
M	E	A	T	R	E	V	I	R	H	U	S	A	S	P
Ⓓ	T	N	E	I	T	A	P	M	Y	U	R	L	E	A
F	Ⓝ	B	Y	T	I	V	I	T	P	A	C	T	N	T
N	O	Ⓘ	T	A	I	C	E	P	S	S	A	R	S	A
R	A	R	Ⓚ	E	T	H	L	R	U	N	A	U	I	E
I	D	I	E	T	G	Y	E	C	O	N	N	I	T	R
A	A	S	D	S	L	G	S	I	K	I	D	S	I	G
H	R	G	L	K	T	I	S	D	N	O	B	T	V	E
D	K	E	I	E	N	S	P	S	I	Z	E	I	E	N
E	E	L	W	A	A	I	A	S	R	C	H	C	F	O
T	R	G	P	P	H	V	P	L	A	R	G	E	A	M
R	A	N	M	H	O	N	E	Y	O	G	N	O	C	E
A	A	O	Y	E	R	K	E	S	K	U	L	L	E	K
P	C	L	I	F	E	S	P	A	N	I	S	A	B	L

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Altruistic, Ancestor, Basin, Bond, Captivity, Compassionate, Congo, Darker, Diet, DNA, Eggs, Estrus, Face, Forest, Genome, Great Ape, Heck, Heinz, Honey, Kenya, Kind, Large, Leaves, Life Span, Lips, Long Legs, Meat, Pan Paniscus, Parted Hair, Patient, Pink, Rank, River, Robert, Sensitive, Shy, Size, Skull, Speciation, Supply, Timid, Wild, Yerkes

Yesterday's Answer: Vibranium

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(Commensurate with education and experience)

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For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. Supervise other scuba diving instructors. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned. **Requirements:** Minimum 1 year of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers. **Compensations:** Workers' Compensation & scuba diving instructor insurance provided.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Watson rules Match Play, eyes Masters

AP
Bubba Watson waves to the gallery on the sixth hole during the final round at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament, Sunday, March 25, 2018, in Austin, Texas.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Bubba Watson was in high spirits for someone with such low expectations at the Dell Technologies Match Play.

Walking to the sixth tee, already 2 up in his semifinal match against Justin Thomas, he smiled and said, "Just remember, I was beating No. 1 at some point." Thomas only had to win that match to reach No. 1 in the world, and Watson figured that's what would happen.

It was about the only thing he got wrong Sunday.

Watson denied Thomas with a brand of golf that was close to flawless, and then he made the final look as though he were on vacation all along. Watson won his second World Golf Championship with the biggest blowout since the title match switched to 18 holes in 2011, a 7-and-6 victory over Kevin Kisner.

He sure didn't expect to play only 28 holes in two matches on the final day at Austin Country Club, lead after every one of them, and pose with the trophy.

"There are stories all different directions that didn't go the way I saw it," he said. "It worked out in my favor. I'm glad I didn't see it."

Watson wasn't as sharp in the final as he was in his 3-and-2 victory over Thomas, and didn't have to be. If not for missing a 4-foot birdie putt on the sixth hole of the championship match, Watson would have won the first seven holes.

Kisner contributed to that. After escaping in 19 holes against Alex Noren in the semifinals, in which Noren had putts of 10 feet and 7 feet on the last two holes to win, Kisner didn't put up much of a fight. He made four straight bogeys, and only twice was putting for birdie through 10 holes.

"I don't know what was going on. It was just pitiful," Kisner said. "I've just got to forget this 12 holes and get back to working on the things that got me here."

Watson never expected to be here, mainly because this fickle format is not his favorite. He reached the semifinals his first year in 2011—losing to Martin Kaymer, the PGA champion, for Kaymer to go to No. 1 in the world—and only made it to the weekend once after that.

So he booked a family vacation for Sunday, and then had to change his plans, which was a good problem to have.

Watson won $1.7 million for his 11th career victory on the PGA Tour.

The tougher match was against Thomas, the PGA champion who was poised to replace Dustin Johnson at No. 1 in the world.

Watson went out to a 3-up lead on the front nine, and when Thomas closed to 1 down at the turn with his first birdie putt, Watson won two of the next three holes to regain control. Thomas didn't make another birdie until the par-5 16th, and by then it was too late. Watson made his birdie from 3 feet for the win.

Thomas said he was too consumed with what was at stake in the semifinals—the No. 1 ranking.

"I haven't had such a hard time not thinking about something so much. And that really sucked," Thomas said. "I couldn't stop thinking about it, to be perfectly honest. And I think you're constantly getting questions about it with the media. But I need to be mentally stronger than that, and understand that it's just a match."

Noren beat Thomas in the consolation match, 5 and 3.

One year after Watson disappeared from among the elite in golf, he has won twice in his last four starts. He was No. 117 in the world when he arrived at Riviera, where he won for the third time in his career. With his 11th victory on the PGA Tour, he now is back up to No. 21.

And the two-time Masters champion added his name to the growing list of contenders at Augusta National.

"I'm looking forward to it, and hopefully I can get this focus and my putter rolling like it is," Watson said.

Meanwhile, for the second consecutive year, Rory McIlroy failed to advance out of pool play, but there was a silver lining for last week's champion.

McIlroy, who lost on Friday, 5 and 3, to Brian Harman, said he didn't have much time to recharge following his victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, and having the weekend off will give him a chance to prepare for what promises to be an intense build up to this year's Masters.

The Northern Irishman will travel to Augusta National on Wednesday for what he said will be a 54- to 72-hole, two-day practice session.

National anthem will be hot topic at NFL owners meetings

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The national anthem is going to be a hot topic at the NFL owners meetings.

Just don't expect any far-ranging decisions to be made.

Judging by the comments Sunday from the Texans' Robert McNair and the Jets' Christopher Johnson, the debate among the 32 owners could be confrontational.

McNair, who last year made an analogy of inmates running the prison about players' demonstrations during the anthem, remains adamant that everyone should stand for the "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"Our playing field is not the place for political statements, not the place for religious statements," McNair said. "It's the place for football."

Johnson, acting owner of the Jets with his brother, Woody, serving as ambassador to the United Kingdom, took a far different tack.

"I have immense respect for the players and their efforts," Christopher Johnson said. "I think if other teams approached it like that, it would not be such a problem in the NFL.

"I can't speak to how other people run their teams, but I just think that trying to forcibly get the players to shut up is a fantastically bad idea."

While the social protests players made last season will be a topic here, reaching an agreement on language in the league's policy regarding behavior during the anthem is highly unlikely. Owners will meet again in May in Atlanta, and with so much other business to attend in the next three days, the anthem issue figures to extend until then.

"I don't know if it'll be a vote or just a new policy coming out," Giants owner John Mara said. "I think we can't go much beyond the May meeting before coming up with some sort of resolution to that.

In Cleveland, the Browns have agreed to a two-year contact with free agent quarterback Drew Stanton.

The team announced the pact on Sunday night. The Browns met last week with Stanton while they were in California scouting UCLA's Josh Rosen and USC's Sam Darnold -- two quarterbacks in the mix to be selected by Cleveland with the No. 1 overall draft pick next month.

The 33-year-old Stanton will likely be a backup for Tyrod Taylor, recently acquired in a trade with Buffalo. Cleveland also currently has QBs Cody Kessler and Kevin Hogan on its roster.

Stanton has spent the past four seasons with the Arizona Cardinals. He went 3-1 in four starts last season.

The 6-foot-3, 235-pounder has made 17 career starts in the NFL. He's thrown for 4,059 yards with 20 touchdowns and 24 interceptions.

Stanton was originally drafted by the Detroit Lions in the second round in 2007. He went 2-2 as a starter over three years.

Prized prospect Kingery, Phillies reach 6-year deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies are banking on young Scott Kingery.

A prized prospect who has never played in the majors, Kingery reached a six-year deal with the Phillies on Sunday that takes him through the 2023 season.

The contract includes three team options running through 2026. Multiple media reports said Kingery was guaranteed more than $23 million.

The 23-year-old Kingery is batting .392 in 20 spring training games and is tied for the Grapefruit League lead with 20 hits.

Kingery hit a combined .304 with 26 home runs and 29 steals as a second baseman for Triple-A Lehigh Valley and Double-A Reading last year. He was a second-round pick in the 2015 draft from the University of Arizona.

Kingery is regarded as the best second-base prospect in baseball. The Phillies currently have Cesar Hernandez as their starting second baseman, so Kingery has also seen time at third base this spring and worked in the outfield.

Coming off a 66-96 record and last-place finish in the NL East, the Phillies have been aggressive going into this season. They recently signed former NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta after previously adding slugger Carlos Santana.

Meanwhile, Washington starter Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 in his final tune-up, pitching 5 2/3 innings and giving up two runs on three hits and three walks in their 4-2 win over the Cardinals.

Michael A. Taylor and Matt Adams homered for the Nationals. Bryce Harper went hitless in three trips and is batting .283. Tommy Pham had two hits, scoring twice for St. Louis.

The Cardinals said pitcher Adam Wainwright will begin the season on the disabled list after injuring himself during conditioning drills earlier this week. Manager Mike Matheny said rookie Jack Flaherty will move into the rotation.

In other results, Carlos Correa, Marwin Gonzalez and Brian McCann homered for Houston and Dallas Keuchel gave up two runs in five innings in the Astros 6-2 win over the Marlins. Odrisamer Despaigne pitched four innings for Miami's split squad, allowing two runs and two hits.

The Marlins announced top prospect Lewis Brinson has made the opening day roster. Brinson, acquired from Milwaukee in the Christian Yelich trade, is batting .328 this spring, hitting two home runs and driving in nine.

Rockets top Hawks, roll to record 60th win

HOUSTON— James Harden had a triple-double with 18 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds in three quarters and the Houston Rockets rolled to their 60th victory, beating the Atlanta Hawks 118-99 on Sunday night.

It was the second straight game where the Rockets never trailed after a rout of New Orleans on Saturday night that set a franchise record for wins in a season. The NBA-leading Rockets have won nine straight and became the 18th team in NBA history to reach 60 wins in the 74th game of the season.

Houston was up by 24 at halftime and the Hawks cut into the lead with a solid third quarter, but never really threatened, allowing Harden to watch the final quarter from the bench for the second night in a row.

Taurean Prince scored 28 and Isaiah Taylor had 26 for the Hawks, who have lost three in a row and nine of their last 10.

Harden, who had 12 assists by halftime, had his fourth triple-double this season and the 35th of his career.

Cavaliers 121, Nets 114

In New York, LeBron James had 37 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Brooklyn Nets for their fifth straight victory.

James kept up his latest sensational stretch by going 14 for 19 from the floor. He reached 2,000 points in a season for the 10th time, joining Karl Malone and Michael Jordan as the only players in NBA history to do that.

Bucks 106, Spurs 103

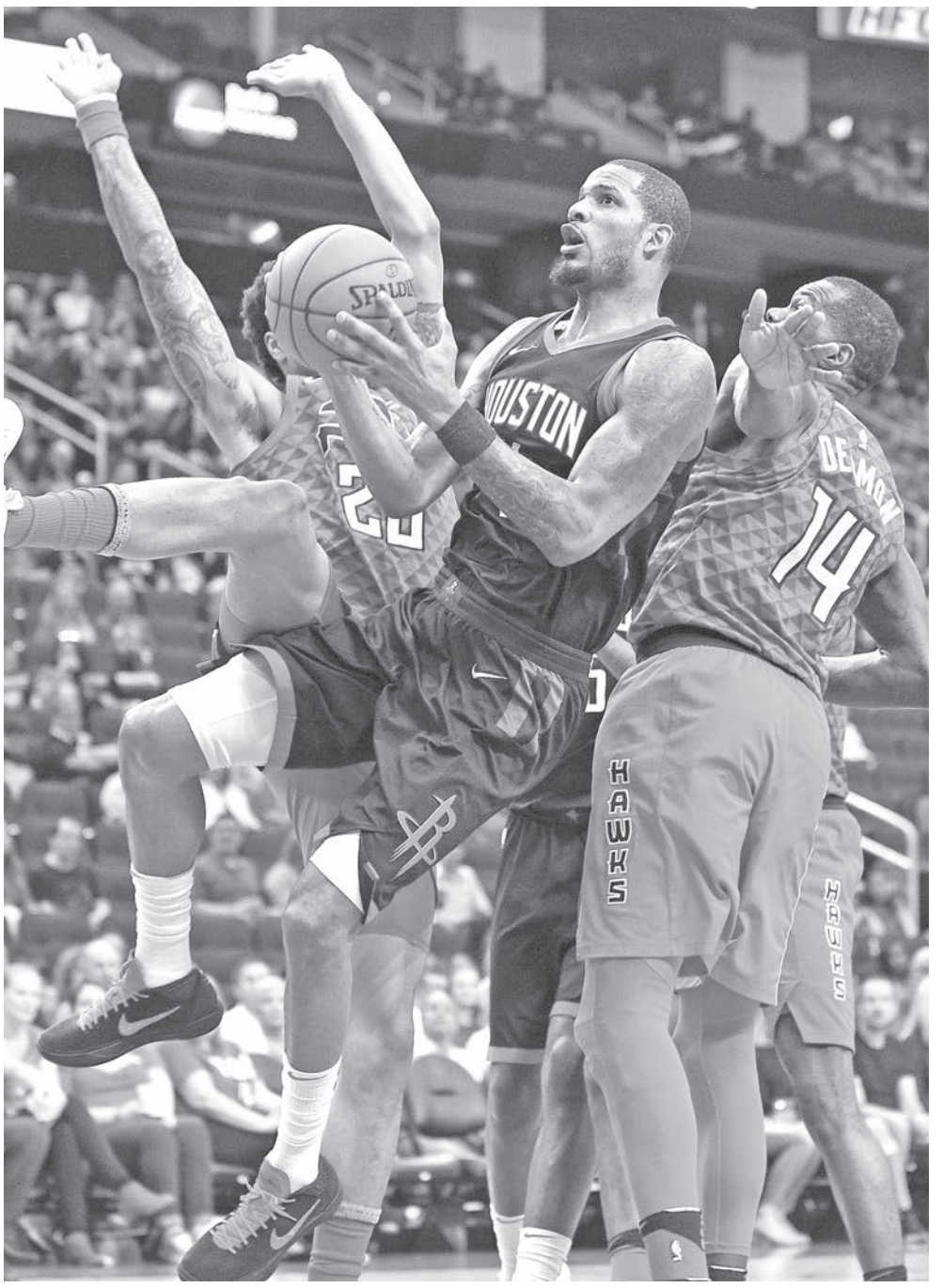
In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from an ankle injury to score 25 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks held on in the final few minutes after building a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter against the San Antonio Spurs.

Antetokounmpo added 10 rebounds to pick up his 37th double-double of the season.

Celtics 104, Kings 93

In Sacramento, Terry Rozier scored a season-high 33 points and nearly matched the Celtics' franchise record for 3-pointers, Jaylen Brown made consecutive buckets to break open a close game in the fourth quarter, and Boston held on to beat the Sacramento Kings.

Making his sixth start in place of injured All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving, Rozier shot 12 of 16, including 8 of 12 on 3s, in the rookie's most impressive game of the season.



AP

Houston Rockets forward Trevor Ariza, center, drives to the basket as Atlanta Hawks forward John Collins, left, and center Dewayne Dedmon defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 25, 2018, in Houston.

Jazz 110, Warriors 91

In Oakland, Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 15 rebounds and the Utah Jazz pulled away from the undermanned, injury-plagued Golden State Warriors in the third quarter on the way to a victory.

Quinn Cook had 17 points and eight assists as defending champion Golden State played without its four injured All-Stars and was forced to use yet another makeshift starting lineup.

Pacers 113, Heat 107, OT

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo had 23 points and five assists to help the Indiana Pacers clinch a playoff berth.

Thaddeus Young had 22 points, nine rebounds and five steals, and Bojan Bogdanovic added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who secured their seventh appearance in the postseason in the last eight seasons.

Knicks 101, Wizards 97

In Washington, Trey Burke scored 19 points in his first start in exactly three years, leading eight players in double figures as the New York Knicks defeated the wavering Washington Wizards.

Courtney Lee added eight of his 13 points in the fourth quarter to send the Wizards to a third straight loss. It's the second three-game skid of the season for Washington and both have come in the latter portion of a 26-game stretch without All-Star point guard John Wall.

Clippers 117, Raptors 106

In Toronto, Lou Williams scored 26 points against his former team, Tobias Harris had 20 and the Los Angeles Clippers overcame an 18-point first-quarter deficit to beat the Toronto Raptors.

Montrezl Harrell scored 19 points and Milos Teodosic had 15 as the Clippers boosted their playoff hopes by winning for the second time in seven games and snapping a three-game losing streak north of the border.

Trail Blazers 108, Thunder 105

In Oklahoma City, C.J. McCollum scored 34 points to help the Portland Trail Blazers edge the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Damian Lillard scored 24 points, and Jusuf Nurkic added 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who swept all four games with the Thunder this season. Portland doubled its lead to games over the Thunder for third place in the Western Conference.

Kerr rules out Curry for first round

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Optimistic as always, Stephen Curry is ready to prove Steve Kerr wrong and return from a left knee injury for the first round of the playoffs.

Not that it's entirely up to him. Kerr on Sunday ruled out the two-time MVP for the best-of-seven Western Conference first round. The Warriors are expected to be the No. 2 seed.

"There's no way he's playing in the first round," Kerr said.

An MRI exam Saturday showed a Grade 2 sprain of his medial collateral ligament and the team said Curry would be re-evaluated in three weeks—that would be April 14 and a possible Game 1 of the playoffs for Golden State.

On Sunday, Curry limped up a couple of stairs to the podium for his news conference but didn't need crutches, saying, "It's nice that I'm walking and not limited with crutches or anything like that, so that's a positive.

"Based on what I've been told, three weeks is a good kind of benchmark to re-evaluate and re-assess kind of where I'm at in my progress and whatnot, so mentally for me staying positive, staying upbeat, hopefully I prove what Coach said was wrong and put myself in position to get back as soon as possible," Curry said. "Right now, who knows, just try to do my job in the rehab process and get back as soon as I can. Control my presence with the team and everything to help any way I can when I'm not on the floor."

Curry had returned from a six-game absence after his latest right ankle injury Friday night only to injure his left knee. In the third quarter of a victory against Atlanta, center JaVale McGee fell into him. Curry hobbled off the court grimacing, sat on the bench and put his head down.

"It's frustrating for sure. I've been champing at the bit the last two weeks ready to get back out there and try to finish out the regular season strong and gain some momentum going into the playoffs," said Curry, who also missed 11 games in December with the sprained right ankle.

This time, he said his first thought, jokingly, was, "Thank God it's not my ankle." Fans figured as much and hollered, "Where are the high tops?"

"I just try to stay positive. There's a blessing in all of this. There's hopefully going to be a story in all of this," Curry said.

Kansas slips past Duke in OT, makes Final Four

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)— Kansas is going back to the Final Four.

It's hard to argue that Duke shouldn't be headed there as well after the most riveting show of the NCAA tournament.

Malik Newman and the top-seeded Jayhawks got past their Elite Eight road block Sunday, knocking off second-seeded Duke 85-81 in overtime to clinch the program's first trip to the Final Four since 2012.

Newman scored all 13 of the Jayhawks' points in OT and finished with a career-high 32 to lead Kansas (31-7).

The Jayhawks will face fellow top seed Villanova on Saturday in San Antonio -- the site of KU's last title over Memphis in 2008—after snapping a two-game losing skid in the regional finals.

"Everything we've been through...we do it for moments like this," Kansas star Devonte' Graham said. "Especially after the last two years, getting over the hump. It just feels (perfect)."

This was college basketball at its best, two blue bloods trading blows for 45 minutes in what was arguably the best game of March so far, one that featured 18 lead changes and 11 ties.

Had Grayson Allen's bank shot to end regulation gone half an inch in a different direction, it might be Duke heading to South Texas.

But it didn't, and instead the Jayhawks are moving on.

"It was an honor to play in this game," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who remained tied with UCLA legend John Wooden with 12 Final Four performances. "I think both teams were deserving of winning."

Newman, a redshirt sophomore who came on late this season, drilled his fifth and final 3 from the corner to make it 81-78 with 1:49 left. Newman followed with four straight free throws, and the Jayhawks' defense stiffened enough to knock the favored Blue Devils out of the tournament.

Trevon Duval scored 20 points, two shy of a career high, for Duke. Freshman star and future lottery pick Marvin Bagley added 16 points and 10 rebounds in what could have been his final game for the Blue Devils (29-8), who fell shy of their first Final Four trip since winning the national title in 2015.

Allen had 12 points for the Blue Devils, but the senior's try at the regulation buzzer went in and then out and then off the rim before spinning away to force overtime.

"I was trying to drive right, he cut me off. Went back left. Their big stepped into help. I had to get a shot up over him. I tried to bank it in and it about went in," said Allen, who finished his brilliant career with 1,996 points.

Aces, Falcons beat SBL opponents

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Last year's finalists Aces and the Falcons dispatched their respective foes in last week's games in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The defending champions Aces completed a 17-7 win in their shortened match over the Outlaws last Thursday, while 2017 season runners-up Falcons thwarted the Ballistics' upset bid last Friday, 8-5.

Barry Sunumai pitched two shutout innings for the Aces with no hits, four strikeouts, and two walks. Nokki Saralu drove in two runs on a 1-for-2 batting with one run for the Aces, who improved to 4-1 while keeping the Outlaws winless in six games.

Jesus Iguel went 2-for-3 with three runs and an RBI, while Tyrone Omar scored twice and drove in a run after going 2-for-2 in the match that was played for only seven innings. Ben Jones, who had a leadoff walk in the first, went 2-for-2 with three runs.

Dennis Cabrera tossed two innings in the start in the Outlaws' loss, allowing seven runs—four earned—behind four hits with three walks and no strikeouts.

Dave Matagolai went 1-for-2 with two runs and an RBI, while Wally Emul also hit 1-for-2 with two runs and a two-RBI single in the Outlaws' five-run second inning. Verlance Secharmidal had two RBIs and was 2-for-5 at bat.

Falcons 8, Ballistics 5

Khobby Kaipat went 2-for-3 with one run and a pair of RBI singles—including a two-RBI single in the fifth.

The Falcons clinched their fourth win in five games to join the Aces at second place behind the 6-0 record of GSM.

The Falcons were tested by the Ballistics almost the entire game with their opponents keeping the score tied at 5-5 after six complete. Last year's losing finalists, however, scored three runs at the top of the seventh and Frankie Lieto came in to shut down the Ballistics the rest of the way.

Lieto pitched five innings—four in shutout—of the one-hit game and gave up one unearned run with four strikeouts and two walks.

JON PEREZ

The Falcons' A.J. Evangelista waits for a possible play at third base during their game against the Ballistics in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Ol'Aces drub Genesis All-Stars

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces reached past the century mark anew to hammer the Genesis All-Stars, 107-80, in the curtain-raiser in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Coming off a 144-58 thrashing of the Saints during the league's opener last March 19, the Ol'Aces' guns were blazing in the third quarter as they turned a 12-point halftime lead, 58-46, to an 85-65 advantage, entering the final canto.

Again, the Ol'Aces had too many options on offense that it was difficult for the Genesis All-Stars to pick their poison. Jack Lizama was one of the go-to-guys for the Ol'Aces, making 8 of his 12 markers in the third-period scoring surge. Six other Ol'Aces players hit the board in the third canto.

In the final frame, the Ol'Aces used a new combination led by Marvin Rabauliman to finish off the Genesis All-Stars. Rabauliman ended up top-scoring for the Ol'Aces with his 17 points, while Lizama and Dan Barcinas also had double figures with 12 and 11. Six other Ol'Aces players chipped in at least 6 points each.

Maverick Itibus had 17 markers to pace the Genesis All-Stars, who dropped to a 0-2 record.

Meanwhile, in the other men's division game last Friday, the Ol'Aces Extra also eased past the CK Ballers, 70-47.

The Ol'Aces Extra spread the wealth to down the CK Ballers. Jesse Santos led the way for the winning squad with his 16 points and had 10 of his teammates also scoring against the CK Ballers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Preston Basa, right, tries to go fancy with his pass during their debut game against the Saints in the MIBF island-wide caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymasium.

First Game

Ol'Aces 107— Rabauliman 17, Lizama 12, Barcinas 11, Iginoef 9, Schmidt 9, Kabiriel 8, Basa 8, Blake 7, Santos 6, Pelisamen 4, Atan 4, Deleon Guerrero 4.

Genesis All-Stars 80 — Itibus 17, Viray 15, Kintz 13, Lauron 10, Quan 4, Tenorio 4, Camacho 4, Sambile 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-24, 58-46, 85-65, 107-80.

Second Game

Ol'Aces Extra 70 — Je. Santos 16, Iguel 10, Saurez 7, Ogumoro 6, A. Camacho 6, Joyner 6, Nakashima 4, Jo. Santos 4, Rogolifoi 3, P. Camacho 2, Moses 2.

CK Ballers 47 — Deleon Guerrero 12, Lieto 9, Capalad 8, Kaipat 5, Pelisamen 3, Augustin 3, Taisacan 2.

FALCONS

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plete game to help the Falcons get past the Braves. He gave up no earned runs on five hits with five strikeouts and five walks.

Willie Cabrera, with one out, had an RBI triple in the second inning to bring in Lucio Aldan, who walked and reached home on a passed ball.

The Falcons scored their three other runs off the Braves' errors.

IIJIMA

From Page 28

just focused on what I can do," added Iijima, who has won almost every major race in Guam. She also placed ninth in her age group in last year's Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Dan Bi Hong of South Korea, ranked 321st in the world, finished second with a time of 4:51:10, while compatriot A Reum Jo was third in 4:53:39. Japanese Maki Nishiuchi, currently at No. 114 in the women's ITU long distance triathlon rankings, failed to clinch a podium finish in her first competition on Saipan.

Having tested last year's race course also favored Iijima, though this year's distance was longer. She said that she didn't encounter any problems in the race. "I didn't have a difficult spot."

"Maybe, just in the pre-race when I had mechanical issues on the bike. But Larry [Malig] and John saved my life. I couldn't be thankful enough for their help," she said.

But while Iijima had no specific goals, men's champ Law does, as he is preparing for a number of races that included several qualifying events in the hopes of making it to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.

"I hope to represent Hong Kong in the 2020 Olympics. That's why I'm training hard and I'm also focused in this year's Asian Games in Jakarta," said Law, who will be using the Ironman 70.3 in Subic Bay, Philippines in June to prep up for the August Asiad.

KENTO

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Andrew Nunez (2).

In the boys over 17 division, Akimaru also swept his nine events to gain 90 points and beat Pohnpei Swimming Club's Kaleo Kihleng (75) and fellow SSC swimmers Christian Villacrusis (72) and David Boyer (58) for the title in their age group.

The 17-year-old Akimaru started his domination in the two-day meet with a best time swim in the 1,500m freestyle, as he clocked in at 18:09.21 in the longest race in the tournament. His eight other events were the 100m freestyle (55.98 seconds), 100m butterfly (1:01.26), 50m breaststroke (32.47 seconds), 800m freestyle (9:17.14), 50m butterfly (26.94 seconds), 200m freestyle (2:03.61), 200m IM (2:23.94), and 50m freestyle (25.37 seconds).

Meanwhile, off-island swimmers held their own against Saipan bets after winning five high-point awards.

Kazuumi Nestor and Charlie Gibbons gave Palau a 1-2 finish in the boys U8 division after earning 60 and 49 points, respectively. SSC's Moshe Sikkel rounded out the Top 3 in the nine-team field after tallying 44 points.

Palau got two more first place finishes when Jericho Maido and Osisang Chilton topped the boys 13 to 14 and girls over 17 age group. Maido posted 88 points to beat local favorite and SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki (80), while Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio (69) completed the Top 3. In the girls over 17 division, Chilton won in her head-to-head duel against Pohnpei's Jourdyn Adams, as the former totaled 84 points against the latter's 52.

In the 15 to 16 age group, Tsunami Guam had a sweep with Samantha Hon prevailing in the nine-swimmer girls field and Jimi Hendrix besting five others in the boys division. Han collected 88 points for first place and was joined in the podium by Manhoben Swim Club's Mineri Gomez (69) and fellow Tsunami Guam swimmer Roxanne Mikel (58). In the boys field, Hendrix registered 86 points to beat Palau's Malcolm Shae Gaymann (78), Manhoben's Pope Santiago (66) and Taiga Sato (59), SSC's Jan Matthew Millo (27), and Tsunami Saipan's Kevin Guerrero (22).

Results in the other age groups will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday issue.

29th Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A Team Agape Courageous member emerges out of the water after completing the 1.9-kilometer swim from Kanoa Resort to Kilili Beach during last Saturday's 29th Tagaman Triathlon.

A member of the Agape Torchbearers prepares to cross the street before hopping on his bike.

Coume Kaga is a picture of concentration as she heads out to the bike course in the 51.50 distance.

Nap Dizon reacts as he heads down south during the 90K bike portion of the race.

Brad Ruszala nears the finish line.

Ayano Braxton smiles as she prepares to take on the bike leg.

Kathy Ruszala poses at the finish line after completing the short course.

Men's pro champion Tim Law, fifth left, joins other members of Team Hong Kong for a group photo.

Watson rules Match Play, eyes Masters

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Sports

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Kento, Jinnosuke triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kento Akimaru and Jinnosuke Suzuki delivered high-point awards for host Saipan Swim Club during the 2018 SSC International Meet held over the weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Suzuki collected 90 points from the nine races he did, topping all his events to gain top honors in the crowded boys 11 to 12, which drew the most participants with 13. The 12-year-old swimmer competed in the 1,500m freestyle (18:22.90), 200m breaststroke (2:54.81), 100m freestyle (1:01.17), 50m breaststroke (36.73 seconds), 800m freestyle (9:45.34), 100m breaststroke (1:22.40), 200m freestyle (2:12.59), 200m individual medley (2:33.03), and 50m freestyle (29.17 seconds). First place finish in each event was worth 9 points and 7 to 1 for the No. 2 to No. 8.

Suzuki was joined in the podium by Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko (80) and fellow SSC swimmer Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (66). Tsunami Guam's Ty Leon Guerrero finished fourth after gaining 59 points and was followed by Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu (55), Manhoben Swim Club's Israel Poppe (55), SSC's Taiyo Akimaru (45), SSC's Mark Jainier Chavez (18), and Tsunami Saipan's Kean Pajarillaga (16), Alex Kim (12), Miguel Bartolata (7), and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki competes in the 100m breaststroke event during last Saturday's 2018 SSC International Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

JON PEREZ
Guam's Manami Iijima adjusts her watch as she heads down south during the bike leg of last Saturday's 29th Tagaman Triathlon 70.3

Iijima not intimidated by pro triathletes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Guam's Manami Iijima was just focused on one thing: finish the Half Ironman distance of last Saturday's Tagaman 70.3 Triathlon.

She just came out to compete and have fun, not worried about the six other women's pro/elite competitors, five of which were from South Korea. She did not also mind going up against two pros that hold International Triathlon Union world rankings.

"I had no specific goals in my mind. I just want to have fun," the 25-year-old swimmer-turned triathlete told *Saipan Tribune* moments after completing the race in an unofficial time of 4:34:40.

Iijima was even third overall, coming in behind men's winner Tim Law of Hong Kong (4:23:20) and deposed champion Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia (4:31:40). She and Dorovskikh won last year's race with the distance set at 51.50.

"I wasn't intimidated with any of the racers, because I was focused on myself. I cannot control who are racing and the conditions, so I

See IIJIMA on Page 26

Contrasting wins for Comets, Falcons

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Comets I and Falcons won in contrasting fashion in the Junior division games in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Comets I romped to a 20-5 decision over Comets II, while the Falcons squeezed out a 6-3 victory against the NSA Braves.

Sneak Sumor pitched for five innings with no earned runs, giving up two hits—a single to R.J. Muna in the third and a double to Jason Reyes in the fifth. He walked seven and struck out three.

Nate Aizon closed out for Comets I, allowing a single to Alvin Hocog, after Corney Izkawa got on base and scored on errors. Hocog, however, was out at home on a Jesus Sablan fielder's choice for the first out.

Comets I turned to its defense again with Sablan caught out while trying to reach third base and the game ended when Justin Monkeya caught a Deven Sablan infield fly.

Justin Agulto went 3-for-3 with a double and three runs, while J.P. Castro scored three times and had an RBI double after going 2-for-2. Aizon and Bing Nakamura each batted 2-for-4 with the former having two RBI triples and the latter reaching home plate three times. Aizon scored one run, while Nakamura drove in Sumor, who had a triple, with a triple of his own.

JON PEREZ
A Falcons base runner, left, prepares to sprint to second, while Braves first baseman Isidro Cabrera waits for a possible throw from their pitcher during the Junior League division game in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Falcons 6, Braves 3

Joel Gildilak pitched a com-

See FALCONS on Page 26